

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXVIII

JANUARY 2000

NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

DEDICATED

O Lord, thy heavenly grace impart,
And fix my frail inconstant heart;
Henceforth my chief desire shall be
To dedicate myself to thee.

Whate'er pursuits my time employ,
One thought shall fill my soul with joy:
That silent, secret thought shall be
That all my hopes are fixed on thee.

Thy glorious eye pervadeth space;
Thy presence, Lord, fills every place;
And wheresoe'er my lot may be
Still shall my spirit cleave to thee.

Renouncing every worldly thing,
And safe beneath thy spreading wing,
My sweetest thought henceforth shall be
That all I want I find in thee.

-Jean F. Oberlin

OUR CHOICES

As we have moved into the year 2000, we have before us the opportunity to improve our Spiritual lives. Although there has been much ballyhoo about this particular year, it still remains another year for us to live. Life will continue as it has, until God decides that a change should be made either in our individual lives or in society in general. At the beginning of this year we may make our resolutions; the rest of the year is before us to carry them out.

What kind of changes do we want to make in our lives this year? There may be changes that would affect our finances, our health, our education or employment. We may have serious questions about these areas of our lives. We need to give attention to these questions. We should apply Spiritual guidelines as we make changes in these day-to-day events of life. Spiritual guidelines need to be used in all areas of our lives. We dare not divorce other areas of our lives from our Spiritual beliefs. Our choices concerning employment, finances, recreation and all other aspects of our lives should reflect what we believe about God and His will for our lives. If our Spiritual beliefs are vital to our lives, they will govern the choices we make. If our Spiritual beliefs only govern us on Sundays, they obviously are not very important to us.

If our choices are based upon the world's philosophy then God is not the most important person in our lives. He wants to reign supreme in our lives. He has done all for us that could be done.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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He has purchased us from the power of Satan. All of our being should be attuned to His will for our lives. We should see ourselves as the slaves of Christ as the Apostle Paul did. We have been purchased by Him, so He should be our Lord and Master. Being His servant means allowing Him to govern the activities of our lives.

His will may not be that which is most convenient, but a slave never has the right of convenience. The slave is there to serve. Being the slave of Christ is not a mindless task. It requires choice. Unlike the slave of the natural world, the Christian has a right of choice. The Christian chooses whether to do as bidden or not. Many Christians rebel against the One who has bought and paid for them. They have determined that they will do their own thing, the way that pleases them, despite God's desire. To them, their desire is more important than the will of God.

The choices a Christian makes needs to be in line with the Spiritual direction that God has given in His Word. His Word is His will for the Christian. When choices are made concerning the daily activities of life, there needs to be a realization that what God wills is important even in minor things. Spiritual beliefs and practices can not be relegated to a corner of the Christian's life. It must have foremost position in the Christian's thinking.

Undoubtedly, there are necessary changes that need to be made in each of our lives. None of our lives are so totally under His control that there is nothing that needs to be changed. Sometimes we settle into a comfort zone. We become complacent and lazy as we enjoy this position. We become comfortable in this place and do not wish to make any changes. Yet there may be some changes needed in how we handle our finances, in how we relate to other people, in how we nurture our marriages, in how we raise our children, in how we are prepared to serve the Lord.

We can not make choices without paying attention to what the Lord and Church have asked of us. When we choose employment that is contrary to Biblical principles or we choose to conduct our business affairs in a way that is not consistent with Christian ethics, we are going to fail in our Christian living.

The Christian life is more than just an expression of Christian

faith. We must believe in God and His plan for our soul's salvation. We must go beyond faith. We must put that faith into action. Through living out that faith, we will demonstrate that faith to others and we find our faith strengthened. A faith that works ends up a faith that is greater at the end than at the beginning.

We want to live this new year, so our faith will have grown by the next new year. Might we make the right choices by following God's Word. Might His Spiritual guidelines guide us to Spiritual profit.

As you begin this new year are you determined to make it a successful year? Are you willing to allow God's laws to become the ruling laws of all areas of your life?

Happy New Year.

M.C.Cook

REACTION TO IMPRISONMENT

Acts 4:23-37

Note the reaction of the disciples to their imprisonment and interrogation by the Sanhedrin. They lifted up their voices to God in praise! They briefly reviewed the greatness of God and how all the different groups of people who stood up against the holy child Jesus had done whatever God had predetermined they would do. Everything done to Jesus was in fulfillment of God's careful pre-planning. In Heaven, there is no panic, only planning.

The request by the disciples to God was that He would grant them a holy boldness to speak His Word, following His Word with signs and wonders, that the Name of Jesus would be magnified. What a prayer! They knew very well that the more they proclaimed the Name of Jesus, the more trouble the religious leaders would make for them! And they also knew that the more trouble the religious leaders made, at some point in time the Romans would become involved.

Notice in verse 21 that they were all of one heart and of one soul. And in this atmosphere, the power of the Holy Ghost shook the place where they were gathered together and filled all those

present. Apparently a Christian can be filled with the Holy Ghost more than once! Many of these same people were filled with the Holy Ghost in Acts 2:4 (on the day of Pentecost).

As we read through the Book of Acts, it is becoming clear that in order for a group of believers in Christ to be filled with the Holy Spirit, they must be "of one accord" or one mind. Those who are divided and argue and bicker and fight are not filled with the Holy Spirit.

The result of this "filling" was that they all spoke the Word of God with boldness, and gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power. Their prayer was answered! Even the Pharisees and Sadducees noted that these people had been with Jesus - whom they believed to be dead (see Acts 4:13).

At the end of Acts 2, as well as at the end of this chapter, there is a description of how the believers had all things in common. All their possessions were sold and given over to the apostles, who then distributed the funds according to the needs. This worked well for a while, but later, the church at Jerusalem was a very poor church, and there was a need for other churches to support them with offerings.

Note that this is the first time we see any mention of Barnabas (verse 36).

Summary Thought . . . It was an exciting time to be alive - as a Christian in the first century church! But should our walk with Jesus be any less exciting?

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

WHO IS A MAN'S BEST FRIEND?

It has been stated that a dog is a man's best friend, yet I have also heard that Jesus is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Is it possible for these two to be even remotely similar? I believe that it is. Following are some similarities that might even convince YOU!

First, it is a fact that a dog needs the love and attention of his

master. He must be cared for and well fed. You must take time out of your day to give him the needed attention. The same is true with Jesus Christ. He desires for us to give Him our devotion and adoration. He wants to hear from His children daily because it brings Him joy. He is a jealous God; jealous of all the things in our busy lives that take our time away from Him.

Second, isn't it true that a dog is no respecter of persons? He doesn't care if his master is tall, freckled, fat, ugly, buck-teethed, bow-legged, handicapped, disfigured, or musically challenged; **NEITHER DOES JESUS CHRIST!** Jesus loves everybody the same. He showers His love on everyone, not just the rich and famous. In fact, He gave His life for every individual in the world, even the worst of sinners; the Apostle Paul, myself, and maybe even YOU!

Third, a dog is wounded when you speak harshly to him or mistreat him. Although he can't understand why you are distressing him, he is still loyal and loves you just the same. Likewise, God is hurt when we ignore Him, disregard Him, or refuse His plan of salvation. The beauty of it all is that He still loves us tremendously and doesn't forsake us.

Although a dog has many characteristics like Jesus, I would have to choose Christ as my Best Friend. Why? Because even though a dog will listen to the sorrows and problems of your life, he can offer no solution. He will only sit and look at you with big, brown eyes. However, when you cast your cares and worrisome burdens on Jesus, He promises to take those burdens. Then He pours out grace sufficient to overcome.

Why anyone would choose their dog over Jesus Christ is beyond me!

Sister Allison J. Dutter

THE GREATEST INVENTION OF THE LAST THOUSAND YEARS

Luke 8:39, "...And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him."

There have been a lot of lists compiled over the past year: Greatest People of the Millennium, Greatest Inventions of the Past Millennium, Greatest of the Century, and so forth. As a student of history, it was not difficult to choose the greatest invention of the past thousand years. Without it, there would not have been a Reformation. The shape of the world would have been far different if not for this simple invention.

In 1453, in Germany, a simple German tradesman named Johann Gutenberg took a simple wooden mechanism and changed the world. That mechanism was a press, mostly used to extract juice from grapes or removing water from cloth. By casting hundreds of letters in lead, and arranging them into pages, then breaking them down and rearranging them, printing with moveable type was invented. The type was placed into the press and paper was pressed to the type. Gutenberg's first attempt at printing a book was a three-volume edition of the Bible. Two hundred were printed at first: a modest beginning. Yet, Gutenberg realized that his invention would change things. These are his words: "Yes, it is a press, certainly, but a press from which shall soon flow, in inexhaustible streams, the most abundant and most marvelous liquor that has ever flowed to relieve the thirst of men! Through it, God will spread His Word. A spring of pure truth shall flow from it; like a new star it shall scatter the darkness of ignorance, and cause a light heretofore to shine amongst men."

Gutenberg's vision, along with an increase in literacy, made books and printed literature possible, and in sixty years, the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. When Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the cathedral door, someone copied it and printed it, and soon many others, including those later called Anabaptists, were challenging the authority of Rome.

In the early 1600's, King James of England set out to standardize an English Bible, which was published in 1611. Gutenberg's invention made this the most-read book in the English-speaking world. It still is.

In the late 1700's, when France was fomenting under the strain of revolution, followers of John Wesley began a systematic and thorough distribution of Gospel tracts all over the British Isles. Not

only was revolution prevented there, but revival became rampant. To God be the glory.

In the New World, Christopher Sauer, a Brethren printer, used his press to the honor and glory of God. He printed hymn books, tracts, and later Bibles. Others, including Benjamin Franklin, operated presses, but Sauer's press was used to further the cause of Christ.

Hear more of Gutenberg's words: "God suffers in the multitude of souls whom His Holy Word cannot reach. Religious truth is imprisoned in a small number of manuscript books, which confine instead of spreading public treasure. Let us break the seal which seals up holy things, and give wings to truth, in order that she may go to win every soul that comes into this world, by her word, no longer written at great expense by a hand easily palsied, but multiplied like the wind by an untiring machine." Printed material is so taken for granted today. Can we see the power of it as Gutenberg did? Others have. Karl Marx, the founder of modern communism, said, "Give me twenty-six lead soldiers and I will conquer the world." He almost did, at the cost of millions of lives, and other propagandists have spread their venom. Can the church spread the truth?

True, we do not use the same methods today that Gutenberg did five hundred years ago. Modern inventions have made printing accessible to nearly everyone, and other means of media spread the word even faster. As a church, we can spread the word using attractive, readable, Biblical tracts that tell others the gospel and also tell them where and when the church meets for worship. We can visit others and leave our literature with them. If we have the truth, why not share it with others?

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) We are admonished in Revelation 3:2, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die..."

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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TRUTH IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL, TRIBULATION AND TURMOIL

"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."

Although some theologians dispute the fact, we believe that Job was given a glimpse of the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of his sufferings. We are also fully persuaded that Job was a real person and the account given actually happened just as it is recorded. The scenes in Heaven had to be revealed by the Holy Spirit to the writer of the book of Job, just as the Creation in six literal days (with a day of rest) was revealed to Moses.

We believe this glimpse of Truth took Job through his time of trial. We can not fully comprehend the dialogue between God and Satan concerning Job. We can be almost absolutely certain that God will allow Satan to try us with fiery trials. This trial was not because of sin in the life of Job, although we believe Job wrestled with a carnal nature just as we do. We read in Job 1:8 what God's view of Job was. "And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil?" Yet God allowed Job to lose most of his family, his fortune and his health. This is why the Lord Jesus Christ instructed us, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,..." We do not believe Christ was saying that it is wrong to have a bank account or savings or to keep family heirlooms that they may be worth much money but that we do not give such things spiritual value or neglect the giving to the Kingdom of God.

We believe this glimpse of Truth took Job through his time of tribulation. Not only did Job go through a time of physical suffering but he also went through a time of spiritual struggle. Several times in the book of Job it sounds as if he doubted that there was life after death. One of these incidents is found in chapter 10 verses 20 to

22. "Are not my days few? cease then, and let me alone, that I may take comfort a little, Before I go whence I shall not return, even to the land of darkness and the shadow of death; A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness." While we do not agree with those who teach that it is good to doubt, we believe that most of us will go through periods of doubt some time in our lives. Satan may try to cause us to doubt the validity and reliability of God's Holy Word.

A large portion of the book of Job leaves the impression that he felt that God had forsaken him. What would be our reaction if we had gone through what Job had to suffer? There are many things in life that may seem to be unfair. No one likes to suffer physically, yet we know that many Saints of God do so just as those in sin do.

Recent reports indicate that Christians are suffering persecution for their faith in many countries in ways very similar to the New Testament Saints and the time following this period. Let us remember these brothers and sisters in prayer. We may not understand the "Why?" of such events but we can be assured that God has not forsaken His Own. Whether in doubt or in suffering, if we seek the Lord He will come to our aid and give us the strength to overcome.

We also believe that this glimpse of Truth took Job through his time of turmoil. Not only did Job feel that God had forsaken him but that he had no earthly help left. "He hath put my brethren far from me, and mine acquaintance are verily estranged from me. My kinsfolk have failed, and my familiar friends have forgotten me." Perhaps the greatest time of depression is when someone feels that no one cares for them. This has led to mental problems and even suicide. There may come a time in our life, if you have not already experienced it, when it seems everyone opposes us and that no one loves us or desires our friendship. At such times we can rejoice in the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ has promised to never leave us or forsake us. We should also be on the look out for such individuals that we can be the friend they long for. While we can not compromise truth we should have a heart of love and concern for family and friends.

Let us take heart that the glimpse of truth given to Job has been fully revealed to the Saints of the New Testament and to us today. May this be our Rock in times of trial, tribulation and turmoil. Do you know that your Redeemer liveth?

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BREACHES IN THE HEDGE

Howard Surbey

In order to grasp the thoughts I wish to present I would like us to get this picture in our minds. Let us picture the devil and his many evil devices as a great storm with its bluster, fury and terrible destructive flood of water. Next those in the path of this storm, the individual, the church or the nation who claims to be Christian. Third God's word has built or taught us how to build a great Hedge which is strong, secure and an everlasting protection against all the pernicious ways of the Devil.

(Job 1:9-10) "Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land."

But alas, we find the tide of sin has reached the so-called Christian nations, churches and even individuals. It is creeping upon them, driving them from the paths of God's word even to the extent that we find many afloat, with this tide carrying them where it will.

What is wrong? Is God's hedge insufficient to keep out the devil or has Christ and the Apostles not revealed to us the way to escape this awful everlasting destruction. Emphatically no but I fear the fault lies in our either not heeding the plan of salvation and failing to build this hedge or else not following God's word and allowing the devil to make a breach in this hedge.

Let us consider the pillars that have fallen or the ones we failed to build which have made this breach in God's plan and allowed the devil to overwhelm us.

First, I notice Godly fear as one pillar that no longer protects man. Not the fear as of a burglar or ruffian but such as an obedient child has for a true parents, rather a reverence. (Ecc. 12:13) "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Without this sincere concern lest we fail to please him I doubt if we can worship him in faith and then our sacrifices may be as Cain's were, unacceptable.

Second, a decided lack of reverence for the word of God. What, among believers? Yes, a decided unwillingness to follow its instruction. Denying that it is necessary for salvation or we might say denying that God revealed this word to us by His apostles and prophets. It is a sad picture the lack of attention and reverence shown by many when God's word is read or commented upon.

Third. Unwillingness to accept the divinity of Christ. (Matt. 1:23) "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Unless we believe this His atonement is of no value to us and I believe we are really in a worse condition than Paul gives in I Cor. 15:19, "We are of all men most miserable."

Forth. Lack of Christian instruction in the home. How valuable it would be to meditate and plan according to the wisdom of Solomon. (Prov. 22:6) "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." When we read the alarming statistics as found by school authorities, juvenile police records and reform schools concerning the increase of immoral thoughts, conduct, vice and crime. We find even most of these juvenile authorities attribute their problems to the child's much training wherever it wishes rather than in the home.

Fifth. Disregard for the sacredness of the marriage vow with its many resulting influences for evil. (Mark 10:8-9) "And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." (I Cor. 7:10-11) "And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife."

Sixth. Desecration of the Christian Sabbath. We have many references from Christ and the apostles about this day and what they did, but let us turn to the schoolmaster, the Old Testament, as a basis for our ideals. (Ex. 20:8) "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." I wonder how many of us dare to say to Christ that we keep this day holy.

Seventh. Lack of honesty in everyday business life. (I Cor. 10:31) "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." In this day and age with its many complicated and interwoven business connections how easy it is to allow this pillar to be broken down. It may be easy to deceive or hide our dishonest and questionable acts from one another, but are we hiding them from God?

Eighth. Allowing our tongues to wander out of control. Do we use this part of our body according to I Cor. 10:31. (James 3:6) "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."

I have tried to bring before our minds some of the main pillars in this hedge to keep out the devil. You may think of others. I believe that if the individual, the church or the nation lacks any one of these pillars of defense then the devil has a fine opening. Now what if several of these pillars have fallen?

May we be more concerned about the protection the Lord has given us or has taught us how to build. (Mark 13:35) "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning."

Selected from January 1, 1940 Bible Monitor

CHILDREN'S PAGE

DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT MURMURINGS AND DISPUTINGS

Phil. 2:14

"Brian, Darrell, hurry and get dressed. Father wants your help in the barn this morning!" called Mother from the kitchen doorway.

"This was the morning Uncle John was going to take us fishing.

Now we won't get the chores done in time to go with him!" grumbled Brian as he put on his shoes and socks.

"It's raining, anyway, so maybe Uncle John will put off the fishing trip until later in the week," answered Darrell as he finished buttoning his shirt.

The boys bounded down the steps and out the kitchen door. "I'll race you to the barn," called Darrell.

"That's not fair, - you had a head start," cried Brian. Nevertheless both boys reached the barn in record time.

"I'll feed the chickens while you milk Betsy," said Darrell.

"You always pick the easiest jobs! You fed the chickens yesterday. It's my turn today," complained Brian, who grabbed the pail of grain and headed for the chicken house.

Finally the chores were completed and the family was seated around the breakfast table. After Father asked the blessing, Mother passed the bacon and eggs.

"I wanted pancakes, this morning! We had eggs yesterday, Mother. Besides my egg is too brown," mumbled Brian.

Mother looked up with a grieved expression. Father gave Brian a stern look. "One more complaint from you and you will leave the table! How thankful we should be that we have plenty of food to eat. There are so many poor people in different parts of the world who would be mighty glad for just a few bites of the food you are complaining about. Apologize to your Mother and try harder to have a thankful heart for all the good things God has given us."

Brian shifted uneasily in his chair. "I'm sorry, Mother," he said.

"We'll have pancakes some morning, soon," promised Mother. She cleared the table, than answered the phone.

"That was Uncle John who called. He said he was unavoidably detained at the office today, so the fishing trip is postponed till tomorrow."

"I'm so disappointed! I wanted to go fishing today! It's hard to wait till tomorrow!"

Father looked at the boy's down-cast faces as he reached for

his straw hat.

"Boys, there is too much bickering and complaining. I have several little jobs for you to do today. It's good to anticipate a happy event. See if you can work together in a pleasant manner. Work can be enjoyed if you have the right attitude. The hours will pass quickly. The Bible says, 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might;...' Ecclesiastes 9:10. Learn to enjoy both work and play. Being thankful and having a happy heart means much. The Bible says, 'Do all things without murmurings or disputings.' Phil. 2:14."

Mother turned from her dishwashing and said with a twinkle in her eye, "Uncle John said to pack a lunch for you boys. Shall I fix an egg sandwich for you, Brian?"

Brian grinned. "I'll eat it if you fix it, Mother, but I would much rather have ham or bacon."

Mother smiled as she hung up the dish towel to dry. "We'll see," she said.

Sister Maxine Surbey

"CHOSEN VESSEL"

The master was searching for a vessel to use,
Before him were many, which one would he choose?
"Take me," cried the gold one, "I'm shiny and bright.
I'm of great value and I do things just right.
My beauty and luster will outshine the rest,
And for someone like you, master, gold would be best."

The master passed on with no word at all;
And looked at a silver urn, narrow and tall.
"I'll serve you dear master, I'll pour out your wine;
I'll be on your table whenever you dine.
My lines are so graceful, my carvings so true,
And silver will always compliment you."

Unheeding, the master passed on to the brass;
Wide mouthed and shallow, and polished like glass.
"Here, here," cried the vessel, "I know I will do;
Place me on your table for all men to view."

"Look at me," called the goblet of crystal so clear.
"My transparency shows my contents so dear.
Though fragile am I, I will serve you with pride;
And I'm sure I'll be happy in your house to abide."

The master came next to a vessel of wood.
Polished and carved it solidly stood.
"You may use me, dear master," the wooden bowl said.
"But I'd rather you use me for fruit, not for bread."

The master looked down on a vessel of clay;
Empty and broken it helplessly lay.
No hope had the vessel that the master might choose
To cleanse and make whole; to fill and to use.

"Ah! This is the vessel I've been hoping to find.
I'll mend it and use it and make it all mine.
I need not the vessel with pride of itself;
Nor the one that is narrow to sit on the shelf;
Nor the one that is big mouthed and shallow and loud;
Nor the one that displays his contents so proud;
Nor the one that thinks he can do all things just right;
But this plain earthly vessel filled with power and might."

Then gently he lifted the vessel of clay,
Mended and cleansed it, and filled it that day;

Spoke to it kindly, "There's work you must do,
Just pour out to others as I pour into you."

-Selected by Sister Velda Gunderman

BIBLE STORIES

THE WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

When Jesus was born there appeared a brilliant star in the sky. Far away from Bethlehem there were wise men that studied the stars and had heard in some way that a king of the Jews would be born and a special star would appear to announce His birth. As these men watched the sky one night, suddenly a bright star appeared that they had never seen before. Surely this must be the star for the new king! As they continued to look, the star began to move. At once they decided to follow the star, hoping it would lead them to the promised king of Israel.

After following the star a long time the wise men came to Jerusalem. Here was a big city and a place where the Jews had their temple and worshipped God. Surely everyone here would know about their new king! But no one seemed to know. The wise men kept asking, "Where is He that is born of the Jews?" Finally, word got around to wicked King Herod. He sent for the chief priests and scribes and demanded of them where Christ should be born. "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the Prophets," they replied. When Herod heard this he called the wise men and talked to them alone and asked when they had first seen the star. Then he sent them to Bethlehem to search for the Baby King and when they had found Him, to come back and tell where the child was so that he could worship Him also. (Herod did not want to worship Jesus, but, because he was a jealous king, he wanted to kill Him.)

The wise men left Herod's palace. Suddenly they saw the star, and it went before them until it came to the house where Joseph and Mary and the little Jesus was living, and then it stopped! How excited the good wise men were! They had followed the star a long time and now they would see their hope fulfilled. They entered the house and saw the young child Jesus with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshipped Him. Then came a big surprise.

They opened some bundles that they had carried from their far away homes and gave the little King Jesus presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh. These were very costly gifts - nothing was too good for the new king they had come to see.

After this the wise men were warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod; so they went to their own country another way. We do not read any more about the wise men, but they will always be remembered for the gracious gifts and the reverence they gave to the King of Kings. This must have been the most important year in the lives of the wise men. Let us make every new year important by remembering that Jesus is our King.

Brother Rudy Cover

THE BOY AND THE MAN

J. H. Moore

The Cherry Tree

I have already mentioned the misfortune that came into my childhood life when I lost the use of one ear. This defect placed me at a great disadvantage in life's race, and more than once made the situation decidedly embarrassing for me. The impediment in my speech seemed hopeless, and in the schoolroom I was always considered a dull boy. In the spelling class I had a standing reservation at the foot. In fact, I cared little for books. The outdoor life appealed to my boyish nature. As a sickly child I had a poor start in life, but in the course of a few years I outgrew this weakness in part, and while not so strong, still for fleetness on foot I was equal to any of the boys. But everything was ahead of me in the schoolroom. It looked as though I had more in my heels than I had in my head.

But my parents thought that I should attend school, hoping that it would do me at least a little good. However, my bad ear and my love for the athletics in life got me into trouble more than once. Our schoolhouse was located in a small cluster of trees, and near the house stood a few tall wild cherry trees. Most children like the gum that forms on these trees in the spring. Noticing a large ball of this gum up quite a distance on the tallest of the trees in the yard, I

asked my teacher if I might climb up and get that gum, it being against the rule to climb trees. "Yes," she said, "if you wish to stay in at recess." Not having heard what she said about staying in during recess up this tree I went in a jiffy, and deep down in my heart I felt gratified for the kindness of my teacher.

But judge of my surprise on being notified at recess that I should remain in and study my lesson! It was then that the teacher repeated what she had said. I told her that I had failed to hear what she had said about being deprived of recess, and that I did not think it was treating a fellow fair for him to have to remain in under the circumstances. But she insisted on her rule being obeyed. As a boy, I never got away from the thought that my teacher fell short of giving me a square deal, and while I did not then forgive her, still there came a day when I traveled more than a hundred miles to preach her funeral. Of course I had forgiven her a dozen times but I have never been quite able to forget the incident. George Washington had his cherry-tree experience and I had mine.

More School Experiences

This type of my school experience did not end with the cherry-tree incident. There was a creek near the schoolhouse, and for boys to wade in the creek was also against the decrees. But whoever heard of a live boy who could be kept out of a near-by stream? One day, at noon, it occurred to me that a little wade in the water would not harm me, and it certainly ought not to disturb my teacher. Well, however high a boy may succeed in rolling up his trousers he finds water just a bit too deep for the exposed part of his legs. Sure enough, when the bell rang my trousers were wet enough to tell on me, and to enter the schoolroom in this condition meant something a good deal worse than staying in at recess. So I disappeared among the hazel brush that stood thick on the opposite side of the creek. A half hour later word was sent to my home saying, "John cannot be found." This hurried my mother to the scene in much excitement, and when I was finally brought to light everybody, along with my mother, seemed so delighted that I was made to feel more like the hero of the hour than a little sinner. But that evening, when I crawled into my little trundle bed, my mother turned back the cover, and the way she applied that hand of hers to the central zone of my

anatomy, showed that my rescue was not all a matter of joy with her. The incident of the trundle bed terminated with the injunction: "Now, you stay out of that creek." For the time I probably gave my teacher, as well as my mother, a little less trouble, and yet I could not understand why creeks were ever made, if boys were to be denied the privilege of playing in them. I could see no other use for such small streams.

However, my experiences in early school life were not destined to be wholly one-sided. The opportune time came for me incidentally to fasten on to my teacher a joke that followed her all through life. Not far from my father's home lived a man known as Garman Gish. In this family I chanced to spend a night. The next day the word "home" occurred in my spelling lesson. Pointing to it my teacher asked me what that word was. I told her I did not know. Then she had me spell it. This I did, h-o-m-e. "What does that spell?" she asked. Again I told her that I did not know. A bright idea struck her, and with a pleasant smile she said: "John, where did you stay last night?" "At Garman Gish's," came my quick response. How to spell "home" became a neighborhood joke, and was kept going long after my teacher became old and gray-headed.

Selling the Farm

Our home was about two miles from a long belt of fine timber, embracing probably one thousand acres, and known as Panther Creek. In this belt father owned five acres, and here we went for our wood, rails and fence posts. Many a day did I help father manipulate the crosscut saw. I could do little more than steady one end of the saw while father supplied the motive power. On these occasions, in the early part of the spring, when the frost had just left the ground, father would bore a half-inch hole into a sugar-maple tree, insert a spout made of elder and let the fine sugar water run into a bucket while we would go on about our sawing. Every hour or two we would fill up on sugar water, and now, as I look back over my boyhood life, I recall no incident affording more downright pleasure than helping father in the woods of Panther Creek and drinking sugar water. Say what you will about David longing for a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, by the gate, but give to me the joy that came from drinking sugar water as

it came fresh from the tree!

After a few years my father sold his prairie farm and moved into the woods, and then later on to the prairie again. All of this meant more experiences for me. But before leaving the farm, I distinctly recall the deal as it took place in our house. The purchaser, a well-to-do German, came, bringing with him a little bag of gold and a man authorized to execute deeds. The fifteen hundred dollars, the price of the land, was carefully counted out in gold coins of twenty dollars each. There was three stacks, each containing twenty-five twenty dollar gold pieces, and as the money stood on the table it made quite a showing. I watched every movement, and while the piles of gold made me open my eyes in wonder, still I was not old enough fully to understand what it all meant. In that day, among new settlers, this much money was considered a little fortune. Well, the German took away the deed, with mother's name also attached, and she received as a present a calico dress, for that was the custom in those pioneer days.

PLANNING THE YEAR WITH GOD

Ethel Beck

Still upward be thine onward course,
For this I pray today;
Still upward as the years go by,
And seasons pass away.

Still upward in this coming year,
Thy path is all untried;
Still upward may'st thou journey on
Close by thy Savior's side.

Sill upward e'en though sorrow come,
And trials crush thine heart;
Still upward may they draw thy soul
With Christ to walk apart.

Still upward till the day shall break,
And shadows all have flown;
Still upward till in Heaven you walk
And stand before the throne.

There lies before us the new year and we are going forth to possess it. Who can tell what we shall find? It will bring to each of us new experiences and paths we have never trod before. Therefore all of us need the hand of the Lord to guide our way.

Whenever you are doubtful as to your course, submit your judgment absolutely to the Spirit of God, and ask Him to shut against you every door but the right one. In the meanwhile, continue along the path which you have been already treading, unless you are clearly told to do something else. If there are no apparent hindrances, after believing prayer go forth in what appears to be the right way. If the answer should come in closed doors be sure there is a way open on ahead somewhere.

Notice how Paul was carrying out God's command to preach to the Gentiles and witnessed to them. When he wanted to go into Asia to preach the word the Holy Ghost forbade him. (Acts 16:6-7.) Then he turned "to Bithynia but the Spirit suffered them not." It is a wonder he did not get discouraged and wonder what God did want him to do. We probably would have been. He continued straight on his course through Mysia to Troas. There in a vision he received a call to go into Macadonia. "And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them." (Acts 16:10.)

In after years Paul did some of the greatest work of his life in that very region, but just now the door was closed against him by the Holy Spirit.

New Year's resolutions that are made are more often broken than kept because any resolution is only as strong as the strength and purpose back of it. It is alright to plan for the new year if we plan it with God.

Since the path we must tread is unknown to us but known to God, our lives need to be guided wisely. Therefore we need to

"fear the Lord," trust Him, and acknowledge Him in everything.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (Prov. 9:10.)

If we want this coming year to be a successful and happy one in the Christian life, we must begin it with God. Then continue to walk with Him as He directs. If our lives are yielded to Him we will want to do only those things that are pleasing in His sight. Can we say with Jesus, "I do always those things that please Him?" Or do we too often do such things that bring dishonor to His name?

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." (Prov. 3:5.)

Do we really trust Him with all our heart? If we did we would not question His dealings with us nor complain because of His chastisement. We would know that whatever He does is "for our profit." "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (Heb. 12:11.) Surely we can trust our lives to be molded by the One who died for us. We have been redeemed with His precious blood, and belong to Him. Our lives are in His hand, "For in him we live, and move and have our being;..." (Acts 17:28.) Do we trust His aid first, or do we after all earthly help fails, then come to Him as a last resort? Let us rely upon Him first. May we be so close in touch with Him that His presence will be felt within.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Prov. 3:6.) Do our way and doings make Christ manifest to the world? Do we recognize Him in our daily duties and the little details of life? Are we taking Him as a partner into our business and financial affairs? If we did we would always be honest, just and faithful in all our dealings with others. After God has directed our ways, given the needed strength we asked for, besides all the blessings of life, do we then acknowledge Him in praise for it all? Do we say we could not have done thus, and so, except for His help and guidance? He is the giver of every good and perfect gift and praise is due Him. We should bear witness to others telling what He has done for us so they will put confidence and trust in Him too.

Sometimes we are brought into peculiar circumstances of life and we wonder how it will all come out. We even fret and worry because we are disappointed that our plans did not work out as we thought they should. God is not pleased with such an attitude. Let us not, in our anxiety try to plan and work some way out of it, but wait and let God work it out for us. Then we will see that His way was best and our efforts would have brought a failure. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7.)

Let us take Job for an example who could see God in everything. "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Could we say this when every earthly hope lay prostrate at our feet? He saw the Divine hand behind it all.

Let us determine more than ever during this coming year, to "seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness." Jesus tells us (Matt. 6:25-34) not to take anxious thought for the things of this life. "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Heb. 13:5.)

If we keep submitted to the will of God, we will be happy in Him. It will help us to defeat the devil. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." (Jas. 4:7-8.) May we always have a will to do His will. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." (Philip. 2:13.)

"Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings; all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (Jas. 4:13-17.)

We should be careful not to set our minds too strongly to do a certain thing at a set time. There are so many things that may

hinder us or change our plans. The better way is to do as James tells us, "If the Lord will, we shall live and do this or that." He knows the way that we take for He has gone on before.

Paul had a desire to do what was God's will for him. "But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus." (Acts 18:21.)

We will notice a few examples of how God directs the life. We find Saul on the way to Damascus when the Lord appeared unto him. (Acts 9:1-9.) Saul trembled and said, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He obeyed the will of the Lord, went to the city where he would be told what he must do.

The Lord also spoke to Ananias (verse 10-17) telling him just where to find Saul. In His description of him saying, "For behold he prayeth." At first Ananias hesitated, reminding the Lord how Saul had been persecuting the saints. The Lord said, "Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel." Ananias went his way and did as the Lord said. Notice how the Lord prepared both men just at the right time, and what wonderful results through obedience. After being filled with the Holy Ghost, Saul received his sight and was baptized. He then received meat and was strengthened, "And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."

Let us consider Cornelius, (Acts 10:1-8), "A devout man and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway." He was in such a position and attitude so that when God spoke to him in a vision, he was ready with the answer, "What is it Lord?" God has heard his prayers. He gave him instructions how to locate Peter, and said, "He shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do." Cornelius sent the messenger to Peter as God instructed him to. At the same time God was preparing Peter for them and their message. He used Peter in answer to the prayer of Cornelius. We notice both were praying men and God could work through them to accomplish wonderful results in His name.

Another whose life was directed by God, was Philip. (Acts 8:26-

39.) The angel of the Lord told him exactly in what direction to go. He did not ask why, but "he arose and went." A man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority came along. He was reading from the prophet Isaiah. "The Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." He was just the man for the occasion and now he knew why God directed him thus. He made use of the opportunity which ended in the eunuch's conversion. What joy this occasion must have brought to Philip.

It brings real joy to each one of us as we obey God's detailed instructions for our lives. Especially when we can be instrumental in bringing some lost soul to Christ as Philip, Peter, Ananias and others have done. Too often, we are not in hearing distance when God would speak to us and He can not use us. Therefore, we miss the opportunities and blessings that we might enjoy, besides making others to rejoice. May we always keep a tender conscience toward God so we will hear that "still small voice," and obey it. There will be many opportunities to do good during this year, may we not let them slip by unheeded.

When the Lord spoke to Jonah he tried to flee from the presence of the Lord. He could not get away, the Lord was there to test him so that he cried for deliverance. Having another opportunity to obey the Lord he gladly did so. We do not always have another chance to do what we refused to do at first.

Now we will consider a few whose lives were planned without God. We all know the story of Ananias and Sapphira. (Acts 5:1-12.) They pretended to be as sincere as others who gave all their possessions to the apostles to be distributed. Peter revealed what spirit they were of, by saying, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?"

The rich man in his life, (Luke 12:16-21) says, "I will" do this and "I will" do that, leaving God out of the question. He has planned his whole life for himself and selfish desires, now God enters and says it is enough. "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall these things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

May we each one plan to be a good soldier for Jesus Christ, and attempt hard things for God. He brings to pass that which is seemingly impossible. "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (II Tim. 2:3.) Always be ready to suffer for Him. "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin." (I Peter 4:1.)

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (I Pet. 4:12-16.)

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in His steps." (I Peter 2:21.)

May we, like the apostles who were imprisoned and beaten, rejoice because we are counted worthy to suffer for Christ's sake.

Too many of us even in Christian service, are like a river that follows the line of least resistance. God is looking for soldiers who are not afraid to accept the challenge and attempt hard things for Him. Not many of us are living at our best. We dwell in the lowlands and are afraid to climb the rugged and steep mountains. We do not know what glory and blessings await us, if only we had the courage to climb to the top, nearer to God.

We seem to be content to be mere babes in Christ, feeding on milk, and yet carnal, when we should have reached maturity, the full stature in Christ. Therefore we are in the condition that some of the Hebrew Christians were. "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."

May we this new year launch out in the deep, and rely upon God's promises while we fight the good fight of faith. Faith grows only as it is exercised and tested. We know, "That each victory will help you some other to win." May we do the things that we know we should.

Dear reader, do you know Jesus as your personal Savior? If not, accept Him now at the beginning of the new year. The peace, joy and satisfaction that awaits you, will be beyond your expectations.

All you who profess to know Christ, is your life yielded wholly to Him? Do you find joy and pleasure in doing His will? Are you enjoying the Christian life? If not, what is the reason? Are you letting God direct your life to His glory?

May this be a challenge to each one of us this coming year, to live a more holy and righteous life, pleasing to the Lord. It is the only way that we can expect, and be assured of a Happy New Year.

Selected from January 15, 1940 issue of the Bible Monitor

NEWS ITEMS

HART, MICHIGAN

The Hart Church project has been progressing well. We have been using the new addition since July. The work continues by volunteers. May the Lord bless each donation, and each volunteer.

It has been good to have Bro. Jeremiah and Sis. Debra and family back home, after their year in Africa. They were greatly missed while gone. It is a blessing to have them here for the work of the Lord once more. We thank God for their safe keeping while over there, and for their traveling mercies.

Sis. Nadine Marks had opportunity to visit Africa with the Johnson's. She had some experiences she will never forget.

These members have been added to our congregation: Ezra Kasza, Lucille Marks, Ronald Rattan, Carleton Horst. Many thanks to God, and prayers for them to remain steadfast.

God has also blessed us with two newly weds. Bro. Carleton and Sis. Dannielle (Marks) Horst were married June 19, 1999. Also Daniel and Sara McGhan were united in marriage on August 14, 1999.

Last but not least, God has added three more babes. Brent Scott McGhan, son of Donald and Cora McGhan, January 9, 1999. Rachael Elaine Reed, daughter of Loren and Cheryl Reed. Veronica Danice Noecker, daughter of Ray and Cheryl Noecker.

At the end of this year, we say heartily, God has been good to us. May His love and spirit be with each of His children as we enter into a new year. May it be prosperous in the work of the Lord. Let's keep our eyes on Jesus!

Sister Anna M. Powell, Cor.

THANK YOU

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

We want to thank each one of you that sent us a card for our 50th Anniversary. We really appreciate your remembering us at this special time. You all helped to make our anniversary a memorable time.

May God bless each one of you.

Edwin and Betty Stauffer

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 2000

February 6 - Is Your Heart Circumcised? - Romans 2:25-3:8.

1. How can our heart be circumcised?
2. What are "The Oracles of God"?

February 13 - All Are Guilty Before God - Romans 3:9-20.

1. Why are all people guilty of sin?
2. What is the purpose of the Law of God?

February 20 - Justified By Faith In Christ Jesus - Romans 3:21-31.

1. How is the righteousness of God manifested without the Law?
2. What does faith do to the Law?

February 27 - Abraham's Righteousness Apart From Works - Romans 4:1-12.

1. What is counted for righteousness before God?
2. What was God's purpose in circumcision?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 2000

February 6 - The Daughter of Jairus - Mark 5:22-23; 35-43.

1. What did Jesus mean when He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Be not afraid, only believe"?
2. Why did Jesus not want anyone to tell others about the miracle He had performed?

February 13 - Our Communications - Matt. 5:33-37, James 3:1-18.

1. Why should we not swear?
2. Why is it so difficult to control the tongue?

February 20 - Our Alms Giving - Deut. 15:6-8, Matt. 6:1-4, Matt. 19:21, Luke 11:37-42.

1. What should be our purpose in giving alms?
2. Who should get the glory in our giving of alms?

February 27 - Our Forgiveness - Psalm 103, Matt. 6:14-15, Acts 5:31, Eph. 1:6-10, I John 1:9.

1. Why is it so important for us to forgive others?
2. What must we do before God will faithfully forgive our sins?

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

REPENTANCE

Vain man, thy fond pursuits forbear;
Repent, thine end is nigh;
Death at the farthest can't be far;
O, think before thou die!

Reflect, thou hast a soul to save,
Thy sins how high they mount!
What are thy hopes beyond the grave?
How stands that dark account?

Today, the Gospel, calls today,
Sinners, it speaks to you;
Let ev'ry one forsake his way,
And mercy will ensue.

Rich mercy, dearly bought with blood,
How vile so e'er he be,
Abundant pardon, peace with God,
All giv'n entirely free.

-Joseph Hart

THOU ART THE MAN

The Prophet Nathan had a very difficult task. He was sent by God to rebuke King David. It is never easy to rebuke another. Nathan probably felt some fear and trepidation as he approached David. He had no idea how David would react to the message that he was bearing.

Jesus was not the only one who knew the value of a commonplace story to speak of Spiritual things. Nathan brought the parable of the rich man and the poor man before David in such a way that David became interested in the situation of the poor man. He, as a onetime shepherd, understood the relationship between a man and his pet lamb.

Nathan drew the picture of the arrogant, rich man who lacked kindness toward his poor neighbor. The rich man had a large flock of sheep. If he had taken a sheep from his own flock it never would have been missed. Instead, he chose to take the lamb of the poor man. If the poor man were a servant of the rich man, it might have been legal for him to claim the poor man's pet. Although he might have had a legal right to the poor man's lamb, he certainly did not have a moral right to his pet.

The emotional force of this story captivated David. He was instantly angry over the injustice that had been done to the poor man. He was filled with righteous indignation. He pronounced judgment that the rich man did not deserve to live and he should

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restore four fold for what had been taken. Four lambs would hardly replace a special pet, but it might be a start. David was very interested that justice might be done.

As David spoke strongly of what should be done, Nathan spoke the words that delivered God's message. "Thou art the man." Nathan was telling David that though he could bluster and sympathize over this mythical situation, he was guilty of the same crime as the rich man.

David the King, who had access to everything that he could want, had stolen Uriah's wife. Bathsheba was Uriah's "pet lamb". David had taken that special one from him. David had committed adultery with her. She had become pregnant. David tried by several ruses to cover the deed but he failed to intice Uriah into personal pleasure. To cover his deed, he arranged with Joab, the commander of his army, to make Uriah vulnerable during a battle. The plan worked; Uriah was killed.

Nathan had only to speak a few words to convince David that his message was from God. David very quickly realized the point of the story. He repented of his sin. His prayer of confession is recorded as Psalm 51.

Although David was quick to repent, there were still consequences to pay. Nathan told him that there would be rebellion within his own household, which was fulfilled by Absalom's revolt. He would also lose some of his wives and concubines to others. The child that was born from this unholy union would not live. Sin always demands a price. The price must be paid. Sin is not to be entered into lightly.

As we contemplate our ways, could we ever find ourselves hearing those words, "Thou art the man"? Have we done deeds that we are not very proud of? Have we tried to hide those deeds? Have we piled up one sin upon another as we have tried to hide the original sin. As sin gets control of a person, it becomes easier and easier to commit the next sin. Our sins may not be of the nature of David's sins. We would hope none would be guilty of such dark sins as adultery and murder. At the same time, perhaps our thoughts and deeds have been related to those sins. Our minds have been titillated by the sights and sounds around us. We have thought of

ways to hurt, undermine, or destroy someone else. We have thought of ways to ruin a reputation.

We learn throughout the Bible, that God is not a respecter of persons. The rich, the poor, the Jew, the Gentile, the educated, the barbarian or whatever condition of mankind, God looks at all the same.

God is looking for fruitful faith. He is not interested as much in our knowledge of His Word as He is in our practice of His Word. David knew God's standard. He had been raised under the law, which said, "Thou shalt not kill" and "Thou shalt not commit adultery". He had failed to keep that standard, therefore Nathan had come to him to rebuke him. Nathan's mission had been a mission of mercy.

God's mercy is still extended to us. We have the opportunity to repent of our sins. We have the opportunity to get right with our Heavenly Father, so we do not need to meet Him in the judgment with these sins in our lives.

Remember, "Thou art the man" was a message not only for David but for each one of us.

M.C.Cook

SOFT WITH SHOWERS

Psalm 65:9-10, "Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it:...thou makest it soft with showers: thou blestest the springing thereof."

When God drove man out of the Garden of Eden He told him, "...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee..." (Genesis 3:17-18) Those who till the soil realize that God must intervene in order for anything to come from that soil. He must intervene in the germinating of the seed and in providing moisture for the young plants. Any harvest, particularly an abundant harvest, depends on the goodness of God.

Without the rain the soil would soon dry up: cracked and barren, the plants long withered away. In Amos 4:7 it says, "And also

I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon and the piece whereupon it rained not withered." God's Word would indicate that withholding rain is a sign of God's displeasure.

God blesses His people with the soft showers: they replenish the soil but do not damage. In Joel we read of the former and the latter rains. The former rain germinates the fruit and starts things growing; the latter rain ripens and finishes the fruit.

Spiritually, we need both. In fact, we need a continual shower of God's blessings. God does not start us like a clock and leave us untended. Certain creationist theories give us the impression that God started everything in motion and then went to do other things. But Philippians 1:6 says, "...he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Be confident that what God has started He will finish. Those who trust in Him daily need not worry about their life. He began the work in you. He will finish it.

Those of us who do not farm must depend on God for the prospering of our work, and to be able to continue to work. Regardless of how secure we think our jobs are, it is important to trust God daily for our needs. He gives us the strength to provide for our families. We must realize that everything that God does for us is a blessing in this life. He is so good to us: much more than we deserve, yet we take so many things for granted.

Might the Lord help us to learn to depend on Him daily, and to be thankful, daily for every blessing He bestows upon us.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Rd.
Newmanstown, PA 17073

FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

"But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord." Jonah 1:3.

"And though they hid themselves in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them." Amos 9:3.

The account of Jonah is familiar with most of us. There are those who deny that this is an actual historical event. But the Lord Jesus Christ deemed it to be so. There are also those who argue that it was a big fish that swallowed Jonah and not a whale, but Matthew 12:40 in the King James Version says it was a whale.

While we can be assured that the account of Jonah is absolutely true, we have to ponder the term "from the presence of the LORD," which is found twice in our opening verse. The verse from Amos also contains a phrase that is perplexing. "Though they be hid from my sight."

In Psalm 139:7-10 we read these words. "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me." This seems to speak of the omnipresence of God. This verse is also an assurance of the presence of God in all places and circumstances.

It would seem as if it is possible to flee from the presence of God and to hide from His sight without this being literally so. We admit our weakness in understanding much of Holy Scripture and desire to be led by the Holy Spirit. We also welcome others understanding of difficult scriptures.

We know that God knew that Jonah was in the belly of the whale and heard his plea. We also know that the reason Jonah found himself in this predicament was because he was not willing to be obedient to the call of the Lord. We believe this can also be true in our lives. When God calls us to a position of leadership, if we are eligible according to Holy Scripture, or to a task that is considered lower, by most, we should be willing to respond. God may call us, as he did Jonah, to call people to repentance. Would we be willing to leave our home and comfortable surroundings to obey

His call? Perhaps like Jonah we would not think those worthy of hearing the truth of God's Word that God has chosen.

We believe it is also possible to be banished "from the presence of the Lord," when we are reluctant to follow the teachings of Holy Scripture. Being an humble servant of the Lord brings us blessings and God's approval.

The verse from Amos suggests that trying to flee from the presence of the Lord will bring judgment. The alluding to the bite of a serpent is an interesting one. We know that the Israelites found themselves in this situation because of rebellion. The curse was a strange one. God commanded that a brazen serpent be made and put on a pole and those who looked upon it would be healed. This is another account that we can not fully understand or explain. It was an Old Testament type of the cross of Jesus Christ. The only cure for the judgment of God is the shed blood of Jesus Christ that was poured forth on that old rugged cross that we sometimes sing about.

We also think a desire to flee from the presence of God may be a desire to shirk personal responsibility. It is popular today to try to blame others for our own lack of morals or sinful habits that result in harm to the body. We are certainly not in favor of the sale of tobacco. But we have to wonder if it is right to sue the large companies for something that was a personal decision.

Is the current trend among many to lay aside the plain way of life a means of fleeing from the presence of God? We are fully persuaded that the prayer covering is a Scriptural teaching and practice. We are also persuaded that many of our other practices, such as the plain coat, are means to keep us from immodest dress, which is condemned in Holy Scripture.

May our heart's desire be to avoid trying to flee from the presence of God and to seek His face and favor.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

BIBLE STORIES

FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

King Herod waited and waited for the Wise Men to return, but they never came. They had planned to return and tell the king when they had found the baby Jesus. They thought that Herod really wanted to worship Him. After waiting for their return for nearly two years, Herod probably sent messengers to Bethlehem to see what had happened to the Wise Men. When he found they had tricked him and left another way, he was furious. Because he was a wicked king, he ordered that all the children, two years and younger of Bethlehem and of the region around it be killed!

God was watching over His Son and sent an angel to warn Joseph in a dream saying, "Arise, and take the young child and His mother and flee into Egypt, and be there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy Him." Joseph didn't waste any time, but started out in the night. The border of Egypt is only about 100 miles from Bethlehem. Today this wouldn't be a very long trip with good roads and by car but by going on foot or maybe with a donkey it took several days. They had to travel over desert land with very little water. We don't know just where Joseph, Mary, and the little Jesus lived in Egypt, but suppose they went to some town where there was food and water and work for Joseph.

After Herod was dead, the angel again appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to go back to the land of Israel. So Joseph did as the angel said and came into the land of Israel. Then he heard that the son of Herod was king in Judea and was afraid to go on. The angel came to him again in a dream and warned Joseph to go into the land of Galilee to the city of Nazareth. This was the home town of Joseph and Mary.

After being in the land of Egypt, away from friends and loved ones, we can imagine that Joseph and Mary were so glad to get back to their homeland. Wasn't God wise to trust His Son into the care of Joseph and Mary, who always did what the angel told them?

Brother Rudy Cover

"MODESTY"

In the Sight of God, a Great Price.

I Peter 3:3-4, I Timothy 2:9

Dorene looked in the mirror for a last glance. She patted a stray hair in place and hurried down the stairs. She just hoped her mother would not notice that she wore her new split skirt or that she had puffed out her hair in front so that her little prayer covering was hidden from view.

Mother just did not understand, she mused as she reached for her coat. All the smart girls are wearing split skirts, now. It is quite a rage! But her mother thought these skirts were immodest. Cheryl said her mother did not like them either. You would have thought that her mother would be glad she wore such a long dress since it reached almost to her ankles. Just last year her mother had mentioned to her that her dresses were getting too short and tight for modesty. Now, her mother did not like her long skirt! She shrugged her shoulders and hurried out the door to greet Cheryl, Linda and Linda's brother, Evan, who was driving the girls to the young folk's gathering.

Evan did not have much to say as he followed the girls into the building that was rented for the occasion. He crossed the room to meet several young fellows, who had gathered for a chat.

Dorene noticed that Evan's cousin, Brian, had come. She wanted to meet him and make a good impression on him. The girls had told her that he had a pleasant personality and was well liked among the young people. How handsome he looked in his standing collar coat, which fit him so well even if it was his everyday suit, she thought. Most of the young men just wore casual dress at the young people's gatherings. If there were visitors from other congregations, she could not tell if they were church members because they dressed just as any outsider would dress.

When the girls sat down, Dorene was careful to pull her skirt sections together so her bare knees did not show. Somehow, she felt just a little uncomfortable as the boys came over and found seats behind them.

She heard Brian remark to Evan, "Who is that cute girl coming

in the door?" Dorene looked up in surprise to see Melody Brenton step into the room. She was aghast! Why Melody was just a plain girl, rather old fashioned to most of the young folk's thinking! "Cute?" There was certainly nothing outstanding about her hair-do or her plain dress, although it fit neatly.

Melody walked across the room in a simple, unconscious manner, greeted the girl next to her with a smile and spoke a few words as she sat down.

"That girl dresses sensibly," said one of the boys. "When she sits down she doesn't need to hitch herself in the seat to be comfortable or clutch her skirt together in panic lest someone should see her bare legs or knees." The boys giggled together. "What makes church girls so silly as to follow the crazy fads of the world?"

"Her prayer covering is big enough to fulfill the scripture teaching, too, not just a bun cover that looks like it is ready to fall off the back of her head, neither is it so small it takes a magnifying glass to see it!" said one of the other boys. The boys laughed again.

"Seriously, Boys, it really isn't a laughing matter!" said Brian. "A split skirt doesn't go with a prayer covering. We should be sincere in our Christian life which includes our attire as well. We need to dress differently from the worldly fads. We are to be a witness to a darkened world of sin, read and known of all men. How can we be a true light if we follow the silly fashions of the world?"

"OK, Deacon, you got your point across," said Evan as he slapped Brian on the back.

The young people had fun singing and playing games. They enjoyed a Bible quiz, the girls competing against the boys, which made a lively time for all.

On the way home, Dorene was quietly thinking. Maybe her mother did know what she was talking about when she said that "modesty was true beauty." She said that a modestly dressed girl does not try to draw attention to her body in any way. If she had been dressed modestly, the boys would not have a cause to laugh as they had tonight when they discussed the silly fashions in dress. She thought of Melody, who was modestly dressed. Truly a modestly dressed girl is to be admired as a sincere Christian, who loves

the Lord and is willing to be obedient to Church standards, knowing that these standards are guidelines for her safety.

When she tip-toed into her room she saw her Mother had placed her Bible on the night stand. It lay open to the Book of I Peter 3:3-4. She also found a book mark in the reference found in I Tim. 2:9. She read the scriptures.

"Dear God," she prayed, "I'm so thankful for a Godly Mother, who cares about teaching me to live rightly. Take away my foolish pride and help me to be meek and humble. Help me to willingly follow the Church standards and learn to please Thee in all I do or say. May my life be a blessing to others so Thy name may be honored and glorified! In Jesus' name. Amen."

The next morning she said to her Mother as she was cooking breakfast, "I'm sorry I troubled you with my stubborn pride in dressing so worldly. Will you help me make some modest dresses and larger prayer coverings?"

Her Mother turned from the stove, with tears in her eyes. She put her arms around her daughter. "You make me very happy, dear. We will have a sewing session this very morning!"

Sister Maxine Surbey

THE DUNKARD BRETHREN AFRICAN MISSION BOARD REPORT

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." I Tim. 2:1-4.

We seek your earnest prayers in behalf of The Dunkard Brethren Church in Africa and for all who have assisted in planting the Church there. Pray for the missionaries who, the Lord willing, will soon be going to Kenya. Pray that the congregations may be strengthened. Also pray that the Kenya Government will favor us with all necessary permits to carry out the will of the Lord there.

Brother and Sister Paul Stump and Brother Fred Pifer are scheduled to be in Africa February 9. Brother and Sister Stump plan to stay until the Merle Sweitzer Family arrives March 8. They will help Brother and Sister Sweitzer and Family to get established before returning.

Give heed to the above Scripture and especially remember the workers in the Mission Field with your daily prayers and frequent letters of encouragement. Their mailing address is: PO Box 658, Kapenguria, Kenya, East Africa. The telephone service is presently disconnected to the Mission Compound. May God be glorified through your generous support of the African Mission Work.

Cordially,
The Dunkard Brethren African Mission Board

NEWS ITEMS

2000 GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Lord Willing the 2000 General Conference of the Dunkard Brethren Church will be held June 10-14, 2000 at Roxbury Holiness Camp Grounds, near Roxbury, Pennsylvania.

Directions and further information will be given later.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz, Pennsylvania Congregation plans a Revival Meeting, March 5 through 12. Lord willing, Bro. Dennis St. John will be the speaker. Please pray for this meeting and come if you can. 7:30 P.M., 9:30 Sunday mornings.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, Revival Meetings at Pleasant Ridge Congregation will be March 17 through 26, with a Lovefeast on March 25 at 7:00 P.M. Please come and worship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation will be holding their spring revivals,

March 5 through 12. Bro. Jason Reed has agreed to be our evangelist. Services will be at 7:30 each evening with a Lovefeast Saturday evening at 7:00. Come and enjoy this time of fellowship with us.

Sister Anna Lee Flora, Cor.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SERMON TAPES

Audio tapes were made of the preaching services held at Dallas Center, Iowa during the Leadership Conference, November 17-21, 1999. A set of these tapes has been sent to each congregation. If you wish to listen to them contact your congregation's contact person. For further information concerning these tapes contact Brother and Sister Don Chupp at 515-676-2200 or Brother Fred Pifer at 515-993-3187.

THANK YOU

Brothers and Sisters of God's Family:

The Lord be praised for His Healing touch, and guiding the hands and minds of the Surgeons and Cardiologist during the recent trauma of by-pass surgery on October 18, 1999. It was totally unexpected.

Thank the Lord for the Anointing Service by the Brethren. Truly the presence, glory and Power of the Lord was in the room. I was not instantly healed, but there came a deep peace and fear was banished, so I knew the Lord was in control.

Thank God for a loving family and Church Sisters who took such wonderful care of me at home. How Blessed I am and so thankful most of all for the prayers; then cards, letters, gifts and money from across the Brotherhood and my family.

Thank you for all who visited me and ministered to me in the Hospital and at home. The Flowers and phone calls brightened many a day. I also appreciated all the Christmas cards and gifts of money. The Lord knows just what we have need of and He never fails.

May God Bless each of you as you continue to pray for me and all those who are in need. My sincere thanks to all.

Sister Clara M. Walter

FEBRUARY 2000 ISSUE

STANDING INFORMATION

EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on the decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed.

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:
Please order from closest distributor:

Merle Sweitzer
13227 Fishel Rd
Felton, PA 17322

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd
Englewood, OH 45322

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th St.
Adel, IA 50003

Milton Cook
1138 East 12th St.
Beaumont, CA 92223

Why Triune Baptism -

Plain Dressing

Which Is The Right Church? -

The Service Of Feet Washing -
As A Religious Rite

What Shall I Do With The -
Commandments Of Jesus

Daily Reminder

The Lord's Supper -

The Doctrine Of The Prayer -
Veil

The Brethren's Card -

Do You Want Salvation? -

Bible Teachings

The Sabbath-Its Origin and -
Obseance

PUBLICATION BOARD

BIBLE MONITOR (monthly)
\$5.00 per year in advance

BRETHREN HYMNAL (heavy
back)

\$9.00 ea., \$105.00 doz. plus
postage

Church Manual \$1.00 ea.
The Bible Outline \$.45
ea., \$5.10 doz.
The Old Testament History
\$.55 ea., \$6.50 doz.
The New Testament History
\$.55 ea., \$6.50 doz.
Minutes of General Confer-
ence in One Volume
\$4.25 ea. plus \$.35 postage
No charge for the following:
Polity Booklet
Instructions for Applicants
Baptismal Certificate Blanks
Credential Blanks

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the writer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sis-

ter.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence, which is difficult to punctuate and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations into paragraphs. Set these apart from the rest of the article by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words such as, "thot" for "thought", "2" for "two", "&" for "and", "etc." for "and so forth".

6. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least a one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references. Please copy wording and punctuation just as it appears in the

King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter, and verse. "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: "beleive" for "believe"; "recieve" for "receive"; "ore" for "or"; "&" for "and".

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your editor should have this item at least thirty days prior to the date of that issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as local Sunday School officers, District Meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items, "In Memoriam".

12. Read these, then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. March - Quinter, KS

Sat. before Easter - Pleasant

Home, CA

First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA

Fourth Sat. April - West Fulton, OH

Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO

Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA

First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA

Third Sat. May - Dayton, VA

Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA

Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA

Sat. before First Sun. Aug. -
Broadwater Chapel, MD

Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. -
Swallow Falls, MD

First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove,
MD

Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA

Third Sun. Oct. - Lititz, PA

Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH

Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA

First Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home,
CA

First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, PA

AUDITING COMMITTEE

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GOSSIP, BOTH, VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters is contrary to Scripture. It should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about those matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members, who were not present, or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, Exit 6. The Church and school are located together.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

Located on Savage River Road in Garrett County, Maryland. From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on Interstate 68, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn left or south under the Interstate three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New

Germany Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn left on Westernport Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn right on Savage River Road. Go 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, West Virginia area travel east on Interstate 68 to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn right, go three tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S.Route 50 take U.S. Route 220 north. Take Maryland Route 135 at McCoole (just north of Keyser, West Virginia, on Maryland side of bridge) go seven miles on Route 135 (passing through Westernport and past WESTVACO Paper Mill) to Savage River Road. Turn right on Savage River Road, go 12.5 miles to church on right

CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Clearville Congregation is located in South-Central Pennsylvania, 16 miles south of Everett and about six miles south of Clearville. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville. At Clearville go straight south, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right. Go 1.5 miles, turn right at the fork. The church is five miles on left side of road. Services are held every Sunday at 10:00 AM.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn off Rt.44 unto Quinlan Avenue at west edge of Dallas Center. The church is located at 2323 Quinlan Avenue, three-fourth mile north on the west side of the road.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #245. Go to fourth stop light, Rt.42, turn left to Dayton, 3.5 miles right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Ohio, Rt 40 and Rt 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County Rd 130. Take U.S.33 or Indiana 15 to Goshen. Turn west at police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., go one block. Turn left on West Clinton Street. Go one mile to Green Road, turn right and go one block. The church is located on the east side of the road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1.5 miles south to 139th Street. Turn west and go to second street, turn south one block.

HART, MICHIGAN

From Muskegon go north on Rt. 31 to Hart Exit. Go left from freeway about 1.5 miles to tee in road. Turn right and go approximately one half mile to church on left side of road.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The white church is on the right.

MOHLERS, PENNSYLVANIA

Mohler Meetinghouse - Located near Route 15 on Old Gettysburg Road, south of Mechanicsburg. Coming from the South take the Rossmoyne/Wesley Drove Exit off Route 15. Make a left unto Rossmoyne Road and another left on Old Gettysburg Road. The meetinghouse is on the left after you travel about one-half mile. Coming from the north you will exit onto Rossmoyne Road and make a left onto Old Gettysburg Road.

Brightbill Meetinghouse - Located on U.S. Route 322, 2.5 miles east of Campbelltown, Pennsylvania in Lebanon County. The meeting house is a grey limestone building.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave Junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colorado on U.S. #50, then one mile north.

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

Located near Collins, Mississippi. From Collins, go east on U.S. 84 three quarters of a mile to Salem School Road. Turn left and go five and one fourth miles to intersection, where there is a directional sign to the church. Turn left and proceed one mile to the next directional sign. Turn right and go one half mile to the church house.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Avenue, Modesto, California. The church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: from the south on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Avenue to Claus Road (approximately six miles). Turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, turn left on Sharon. The Church is on the left.

Coming from the north on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt 20 Alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rt. 15 and U.S. Route 20 Alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

From Interstate 68, which transverses east and west through western Maryland, proceed to Cumberland, Maryland. Take Route 220 South through Keyser, West Virginia to US 50. (You will need to take a left turn to continue following Route 220.) Turn east (left) on US 50 and proceed to Ridgeville. Turn right (south) onto Knobley Road.

Follow Knobley Road 7.8 miles (The Antioch Church of God will be on your right). Turn left onto Harness Run Road (which is unpaved). Keep to the right at the "Y" and proceed 1.5 miles to the Ridge church house on the left.

Coming from the east or west on US 50, turn south onto Knobley Road at Ridgeville, and follow the above directions (from Knobley Road to the church).

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Church address is: 2191 Swallow Falls Road., Oakland, MD 21550. Take Maryland Rt. 219 North of Oakland 5.5 miles or South of I 68, 18 miles to Mayhew Inn Road. West on Meyhew Inn Road to the stop sign (4.2 miles). Bear left onto the Oakland- Sang Run Road for .3 mile to the Swallow Falls Road. Turn right onto the Swallow Falls Road for .3 mile. The Church will be on your left.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Church address is: 4000 Kump Station Road, Taneytown, MD 21787. From Littlestown, PA travel Route 194 south toward Maryland. After crossing PA/MD line (this is shortly after Kingsdale Firehouse on right), turn left onto second hard road on your left, which is Kump Station Road. Follow this road approximately one fourth mile to brick church house on right.

From Taneytown, MD, take Route 194 north three miles. Turn right onto Kump Station Road. Brick church house is on right, approximately one fourth mile.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Church is located in west side of town, on the corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Avenue, go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate, 3.5 miles west of the junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. 20 Alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

Located in Cherry Valley. Coming north of Beaumont on Beaumont Avenue, turn right on Brookside, go to Jonathan, turn left, go one block to Lincoln, turn right and go to church house, which is on left side of road. Coming east on I-10 exit at Cherry Valley Blvd, go to end of road at Noble. Turn right go two blocks to Lincoln, turn left go to church house on left side of road. Coming west on I-10 exit at Highland Springs Road. Turn right, go to Brookside, turn left, go to Winesap, turn right, go one block to Lincoln, turn left. Church house is on right side of road.

MISSIONS

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION, NEW MEXICO

Located 23 miles southwest of Cuba, New Mexico. In Cuba, turn on State Highway 197. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles to a paved road leading to the left. A Mission sign marks this junction. Present personnel includes: David and Mildred Skiles; Paul and Sarah Skiles; Dale and Janie Meyers; Alan Trujillo; Amy Myers; Colleen St. John and Andrea Pifer. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: HCR 79, Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013; telephone: 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

AFRICAN MISSION

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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 2000

March 5 - A Faith For The Long Haul - Romans 4:13-25.

1. Explain the connection of faith and hope.
2. What was imputed to Abraham for righteousness?

March 12 - The Results of Faith - Romans 5:1-11.

1. How does our faith justify us before God?
2. What is the Atonement we receive through Jesus Christ?

March 19 - The Free Gift - Romans 5:12-21.

1. What is the free gift?
2. What is grace?

March 26 - Dead To Sin And Alive To Christ - Romans 6:1-14.

1. Explain the symbolism of death and resurrection in baptism.
2. How can we use the members of our body "as instruments of righteousness unto God"?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 2000

March 5 - Beheading Of John The Baptist - Matt. 14:1-13.

1. Why did Herod think that Jesus was John the Baptist?
2. Why was John the Baptist bound in prison by Herod?

March 12 - Our Instruction - Prov. 1:1-19, John 6:45, Eph. 4:21-23.

1. What are we if we despise wisdom and instruction?
2. From whom shall we take instructions?

March 19 - Our Experiences - Ecc. 3:1-12, Romans 5:1-12.

1. Who is in control of the seasons and time?
2. What should our experiences in life do for us?

March 26 - Paul's Shipwreck - Acts 27:7-44.

1. What do you suppose Paul was thinking before the Angel of God spoke to him?
2. Why did the shipmen have to stay in the ship (according to Paul) for everyone to be saved alive?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXVIII

MARCH 2000

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
--	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

COME AND DINE, MY LITTLE CHILDREN

"Come and dine!", sweet invitation,
To all the thirsting, starving souls.

"Come and dine, my little children,
Come and dine!

Heavenly manna here is waiting,
Bread and fish upon the coals.

Come and dine, my little children,
Come and dine!"

"Come and dine!", I hear Him whisper,
When life's trials heavy press.

"Come commune with me, my child,
Come and dine!

Here you'll find a peace and comfort,
Strength to lean on, needed rest
From the cares of life, my child,
Come and dine!"

-Sister Arlene Stamy
McClave, CO

PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY

To the Jews, the Gentiles were "dogs". A dog was not "man's best friend" in the eyes of the Jews. They despised dogs. Since they hated dogs so much, it was easy for them to transfer that feeling to the Gentiles. They disdained the Gentiles in the same way that they disliked curs that slunk around the alleys of their towns.

The Jews were God's chosen people. As God's chosen people, they thought themselves superior to all other people. They thought that God owed them this honor. They had forgotten that in His mercy He had selected them to be His people. He had selected them not because of their greatness or power or faithfulness. For His own purpose, He had picked them. They had not chosen Him.

Being God's Chosen People, they believed that they possessed many privileges. They were special in the sight of God, so they felt they could look down on other groups of people. They had been able to wrangle concessions from their Roman governors. They were excused from the army, because they would not fight on the Sabbath. They were able to rule in Spiritual matters among their people without Roman interference, except for capital punishment.

While enjoying the privileges of being God's Chosen People, they were short on claiming the responsibilities that went along with that position. They had not been faithful to the God who had chosen them. They often had strayed from His ways. While they were proud of the Law that Moses had transmitted to them from God, they had consistently failed to live it. They had invented ways to

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circumvent the Law in the name of the Law. They could tithe their seeds and spices but had forgotten that the Law had weightier matters that should have engaged their attention. They could keep procedures and rituals but had forgotten about love, peace and judgment. In the name of their specialness they had acted in very ungodly ways. They had failed to live responsibly. They wanted only to enjoy the privileges without bearing the burden of responsibility.

This failure of the Jews to be obedient to the God who had called them should be a warning to God's children today. It is shortsighted to criticize those of old who failed in their responsibilities when we should profit from their failure. If we feel their failure, we should avoid the mistakes that they made. If we continue in the course that they followed without correction we will be rated failures just as they were.

Those who have become a part of God's family enjoy the privileges of that relationship. It is a wonderful privilege to have one's sins forgiven. It is a great thing that a sinner can be justified by God through His own Gift of His Son, who served as the propitiation for men's sins. It is a privilege to look forward to an eternal Home in Heaven. It is a privilege that those who have entered into that relationship with God can have fellowship and brotherhood together in this life. Another privilege is being entrusted with His Word, that we can study and apply in our daily lives. We have been given the privilege of participating in the various ordinances that He has given us to advance our Spiritual lives.

With these and other privileges, there have been given to believers various responsibilities. Just as the Jews, God's Chosen People enjoyed many privileges and responsibilities, so Christians have responsibilities that go along with their privileges. Christians are responsible for obeying their Heavenly Father. His commandments are not optional. They have been given for His honor and for our advancement. Christians have the responsibility of sharing the Gospel with the lost. There is a responsibility to support and build up each other in the faith. There is a need to share with a world that is continually troubled with natural disasters and personal problems. Christians need to live out the directions of their Heavenly Father; they can not content themselves with the wonderful privileges given them by their loving Heavenly Father. Christians dare not become

so Heavenly-minded that they are of no earthly good.

The Jews enjoyed their status as God's Chosen People. They had much to rejoice in with that relationship. Christians also have much to be thankful for as the children of God. The Jews failed to keep up their responsibilities. Will Christians also forget their responsibilities, while rejoicing in their privileges?

Are you aware of your privileges as a Christian? Are you also aware of your responsibilities as a Christian?

M.C.Cook

REMEMBER: GOD IS ALWAYS WATCHING YOU

Acts 5:1-16

The early days of the Christian church were filled with excitement, persecution, and miraculous manifestations of the Holy Spirit. But suddenly, a very startling event occurred! The wonderful feelings of euphoria suddenly popped like a balloon! Instead of excitement, great fear came upon all the church. Why?

A certain couple named Ananias and Sapphira apparently had become Christians. They had witnessed the great filling of the Holy Ghost and the wonderful fellowship the believers in Jesus experienced. They wanted to be a part of it all. But they didn't quite trust to invest their **all** with the apostles. Yet they wanted to look good in front of everybody. So they sold their land (property), and put **some** of the proceeds in the bank, and brought the rest of it and laid it at the apostles' feet (see chapter 4:35), as all the rest of the Christians were doing. After being individually confronted by Peter (who was still filled with the Holy Ghost), each one fell down dead. Why?

God was judging them for their pretense. They were pretending to be devoted, and to be giving their all. They wanted the praise of men. They were not really thinking about the praise of God. They wanted everyone to be thinking nice warm fuzzy thoughts about them. Even though their gift seemed like a very generous contribution, it was actually a very selfish action! They were giving some of their possessions in order to receive the praises of men, and to look just as devout as the others who were giving their all and laying it at the apostles' feet.

But God knew their hearts. God judged them instantaneously! We are not to take this "grace" thing too far! Even in the age of grace, we dare not trifle with God! God can still read our hearts, our desires and our motives. We need to remain honest and upright with Him. There is no fooling God! This was quite a sobering experience for the new Church.

There were a lot of signs and wonders going on (especially healings), and the Holy Spirit confirmed that this new movement was in God's will and plan. The words in verses 15-16 present quite an interesting picture! Peter became highly respected in and around Jerusalem! The Church continued to grow (verse 14) — albeit more slowly then before the Ananias and Sapphira experience (verse 13).

Summary Thought . . . Never try to deceive God. God knows your heart. Stay open, honest, and up-to-date with your prayer life.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

KENYA KNOTES

The Road to Kapenguria

The steering jerked against my hands as the van failed to miss one of the many serious potholes on Kenya Rt. 104. It would get worse! Actually the first eight thousand miles of this journey went very smoothly, except for saying good bye to my family at Des Moines, which was one of the hardest things I have ever done. But then didn't Christ teach that we should be willing to leave all for His cause? Then He gave His life to put an exclamation point to His message!

The tug at the wheel proved to be very minor compared to the tug at my heart as my soul met the souls of Kenya. The potholes of pride, jerks of jealousy and ditches of dishonesty line the spiritual pavement to Kapenguria, just like in America, but there is hope. These souls are very hungry for the spiritual food and crave training in discipleship and leadership. Then there is the bright eyes and happy faces of the little children which make singing "Jesus Loves The Little Children" take on a much deeper meaning. (Careful Fred you are probably just getting homesick!)

To help fulfill the needs in this community, I have a couple of points for prayer.

First, like at any mission, they desperately need long term staff to become a real part of their life, needs and visions. Our shorter term volunteers have done very well and have fulfilled a great need, but it takes a while to really know the people and culture. I believe these folks will be much encouraged by a family in place for at least a year. Bro. Merle and Sis. Cindy and their family will find a very lovely people in a beautiful land.

Also, pray for a building in which they can worship the Lord. A shade from the hot sun and shelter from the rain and wind would greatly bless. It's a reasonable need I am confident we can meet.

As we sat in the first service and sang "What A Friend We Have In Jesus", "Rock Of Ages", and "Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus", my heart thrilled. The harmony, melody, and spirit of their singing in Swahili is as beautiful as any English singing I have heard. About sixty were in attendance.

Before going to Kapenguria, Bro. Paul, Sis. Mary, and I stayed at the Mennonite Guest House in Nairobi while we took care of some Mission business and fixed the van. It was interesting to listen to the conversations of people from around the world as we sat at the meals:

Some, of the balloon rides; some of the mud slides,
the safaris and soaking up the sun.

The safaris sounded find,
but I don't think I'll have the time,
There's serious soul work to be done!

In a couple weeks when I get back into our van in Des Moines, Iowa, I will probably find myself driving on the wrong side of the road!...or, will it be the wrong side of the world...

Brother Fred Pifer

Leaving Home

Paul and I want to thank all of you who sent e-mail, letters of encouragement, phone calls and your love and prayers. Many people who came to our office and home and friends across the United States said, "We will put you on our prayer chain." What a

blessing to have prayer warriors in our behalf.

As many of you know it is quite a trauma for me to get ready, get the house cleaned and organized, writing notes of instruction to water my violets every Monday, caring for my girls (chickens) in the chicken house. The weeks and days swiftly passed. Packing suitcases to the limit was a job as we pushed and pulled and stood on the suitcases to get them zipped shut to bring as much as we possibly could. This seemed to be somewhat fruitless since the airline lost one of our suitcases.

At the close of Sunday evening services before we left, Bro. David Rice asked everyone to come to the front of the church. We made a circle, held hands and prayer was offered for our safety and direction. What a blessing to be amongst our small group at Englewood and to know you are loved.

It was good to meet Bro. Fred at Cincinnati. We flew to Brussels then on to Nairobi. Our flight from Brussels to Nairobi was a little bumpy at times. We were thankful for the safe flight the Lord granted us.

We spent some time at the Mennonite guest house in Nairobi. It was nice and restful for me, but not for Paul and Fred as they needed to do some work on the van and a few other necessary things before our 445km drive to Kapenguria. We arrived at the mission Saturday evening and found everything in good shape. Now to organize and clean the rooms to be ready for Bro. Merle and Sis. Cindy Sweitzer and family when they arrive the 8th of March.

Pray for us that we may do the will of God.

Sending our love from Kenya,
Sister Mary Stump

Greetings from Kenya. We were very happy to have Bro. Fred Pifer with us for two weeks. We appreciated his help, direction and assistance in the work here at the mission. It is amazing how Christian ties and brotherly love are knit together when we live, eat, work and pray together for just two weeks. It made giving each other good bye a little harder at the airport as Bro. Fred left for home and we stayed behind to carry on the work here and to prepare for the arrival of our new missionaries, Bro. Merle and Sis. Cindy Sweitzer and family.

Our hearts were touched by the warm welcome of the members and the community here at Makutano and Kapenguria. Almost every day as I drive the van slowly through the rugged streets of Makutano someone calls my name (they remember), and come running to the van to shake my hand and welcome us back.

We had services here at Makutano both Sundays. I taught Sunday School and Bro. Fred brought the messages. The singing was beautiful as they opened their mouths and hearts in praise to our Heavenly Father.

We wanted Bro. Fred to visit all the churches, so Thursday we visited the church at Kaptamia. Friday we visited the Chesubet and Kaptalamwa churches. Monday we visited the Chepkorniswa and Ortum churches. Services were well attended with twenty-five to forty in attendance at each service. Pray for the church here in Kenya that their hearts might be softened to receive the word of God that they would remain true and faithful.

May God keep each of you in His care as we are many miles apart.

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NOTES FROM NAVAJOLAND

I Have Jesus

It is often appalling to see how reluctant a person is to recognize the power and presence of Christ in the believers' life. We can talk about the weather, people, current events and a host of other topics with hardly a word about Jesus. It should not be this way.

A Navajo brother who has numerous health problems and often suffers physical pain, recently related the following. His brother-in-law had worked seven years under the ground in a uranium mine and had developed radiation sickness in his lungs. He had gone to many doctors and to the Navajo medicine man who was performing native ceremonies on him. In visiting with the believing brother he

remarked, "You should go to the medicine man." The believing brother replied, "I don't need the medicine man; I have Jesus."

I have thought since of what a great witness such a simple statement makes. A person does not have to be a theologian to acknowledge the presence and power of Christ in one's life. There comes a time when each Christian's witness needs to be taken to a new dimension—the dimension of proclaiming Christ openly with the mouth.

It is easy to take for granted that every one knows where we stand as a Christian. The fact is that that is not the case. This world needs a very clear picture of the Christ that lives within the life of the believer. Let's confess Jesus with our mouth as well as with our life.

Brother David Skiles

HOW ISLAM DIFFERS FROM CHRISTIANITY

Islam (also called Mohammedanism) is a major world religion. Their members believe and recite the basic creed, "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the prophet of Allah." Their basic belief is salvation by works. There are five basic works Muslims believe they must do to gain salvation: the basic creed, prayer, pilgrimage, fasting, and almsgiving.

The basic creed, mentioned before, is their core statement of faith.

Two forms of prayer are used. First, all Muslims must recite a ritual prayer which is offered five times a day facing Mecca (the Muslim's "holy city," located in Saudi Arabia). These prayers are recited in Arabic, whether the recitee knows Arabic or not; they say, "Allah understands." Second is a personal, spontaneous prayer, which needs no ritual sayings and can be offered at any time.

The pilgrimage, or "hajj," is a journey that takes place at a certain time of year. Muslims are expected to take part in this journey at least once in their life. It represents the journey taken by Muhammad (also spelled Mohammed) to escape his tormentors who opposed his public preaching in Mecca, the town of his birth. He fled to Medina from Mecca in A.D. 622, the first year of the Muslim calendar. Most Muslims visit both Mecca and Medina on their pil-

grimaces.

Fasting is commanded in the Koran, and the Muslim fast lasts for one month. All food, drink, and smoking is forbidden from dawn to dark; after dark, however, all normal activities may be indulged in. On the Muslim (Arabic lunar) calendar, this is the month of Ramadan. This month does not coincide with any month from our calendar, which is a solar calendar. A festival lasting for several days follows the fast. The fast may be postponed for anyone who is sick or on a journey.

Almsgiving, also called the “zakat,” is a forced contribution of a certain percentage of certain goods. The *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* says that “some Middle Eastern countries still collect it, but on a voluntary basis, not as a tax levy.”

The Muslims believe their god, Allah, is all-powerful, the “high-and-mighty” creator of everything, and is not loving or personal. At the end of time, he will judge all men according to their works, and reward them with either heaven or hell.

The Koran (also spelled Qur'an) is the Muslim's “holy book,” and is about the length of the New Testament. According to Islamic tradition, the Koran was revealed to Muhammad in a series of visions received between A.D. 610 and 630, through the angel Gabriel. Muhammad and his followers kept the visions in their memory. After Muhammad's death in A.D. 632, the memories were compiled and resulted in several versions; these were later compiled and reviewed to form one authorized version.

In contrast to all this is Christianity. First, Muhammad is dead; Jesus, on the other hand, is alive, sitting on the right hand of God. God is a God of love, and made a way possible for all people to go to Heaven, not just the most righteous.

Christians can pray to God any time and in any place we choose, without reciting special formulas in a language we may not even understand. We can have a personal relationship with a God who knows our weaknesses and understands how we feel.

Christians can fast when they feel the need, not just during a certain month of the year.

In II Corinthians 9:7, Christians are commanded to give “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not

grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

The Bible was written by more than thirty men over a period of 1500 years. It is in complete harmony. The King James Version we use has been found to be almost identical with very early scrolls found near Qumran close to the Dead Sea. God has miraculously preserved His writings for people of every age to read. This contrasts sharply with the Koran, which was received all by one man and was preserved only by faulty human memories.

In light of all this, Christians can honestly say, "What a mighty God we serve!"

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Adam Lehigh

BIBLICAL VIEW OF DISCIPLINE

What is discipline? It is training, given in love, that develops self-control, character and responsibility. Why discipline? It is a basic principle from the Bible. There are many references from the Bible concerning discipline. Here is a list of some. We encourage you to read these before continuing. Proverbs 3:12, 13:24, 19:18, 22:6, 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15, Hebrews 12:16.

We see from these scriptures that it is very necessary to discipline. We would tend to think that discipline is a command from God. We as the children of God should exercise this command. When we think of discipline we realize that its purpose is to prepare a person for a life of service for God and to create a Biblical view of God. How a child views his parents, is how he will view God. How do you view God?

There are four types of parents:

Neglectful. These parents are low in love and discipline. They are too busy to take time with their children. Their children have a low self-view, a poor response to discipline outside the home, and are not likely to follow the beliefs or lifestyle of the parents.

Permissive. These parents are high in love while low in discipline. Their children have a very low self-image, but are more likely to follow their parents than those of neglectful parents.

Authoritarian. These parents are high in discipline, but low in

love. The children respond poorly to their parents and are most likely to be rebellious.

Authoritative. This is the Biblical parent. They are high in love and discipline. The children will have a desire to follow the steps of the parent, and have a good self-image. They respond well to discipline outside the home.

We realize the importance of discipline. How do we administer it? This needs to be answered by the parents. We realize that God's Word would support a physical "beating" to deliver the soul from hell (Proverbs 23:13-14). We also realize the need to be consistent. We see in our everyday life around us, that without discipline, we would have a chaotic mess. Lack of discipline tears down authority until we come to the place, that as Judges 21:25 states, "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

Discipline is necessary in other aspects of our lives also. In the work place there is a need for the employer to have a discipline code for those who do not do what is expected of them. We also have many scriptures that show how the servant-master relationship is to be.

We also realize that there needs to be discipline in the church. If the church is to be a pure and glorious church, that brings honor and glory to God, it will discipline wayward members in love. If the leaders of the church really love the members and have a concern for their future and eternal state, then they will practice discipline. Matthew 16:19 and 18:15-18 would show that God has given authority to the church to discipline in love. In I Timothy 1:20 we see that Paul gave us an example of excommunication. Church discipline also helps others to realize the seriousness of sin by giving an example so that they might not fall into sin (I Timothy 5:20).

In His Service,
Brother Kevin Haines
Hart, MI

BE THOU AN EXAMPLE

I Timothy 4:12, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit,

in faith, in purity.”

The Apostle Paul wrote these instructions to a comparatively young Timothy. Exactly what his age was is not known. Since he was a recognized leader in the Church it is very unlikely that he would have been considered a novice or beginner.

The word “bishop” found in chapter 3 of I Timothy has been interpreted differently by various groups. The Brethren have historically understood this term to be the same as elder. We believe the same qualifications would also hold true for a minister, though perhaps to a lesser degree. It would appear that normally an elder would be chosen from those who have held the office of minister for the longest period of time within our Brethren understanding of these offices.

We find it interesting that the Apostle Paul does not instruct Timothy to be an example **to** the believers, but **of** the believers. We believe the Apostle Paul is advising young Timothy to look to both those who have gone on before and those who are older and wiser for instruction and example. We consider it a sad situation when the young men in leadership try to bring radical change in the church in place of being willing to be an example of the believers who have established it. This type of action will cause some to despise their youthful activity rather than holding them in respect.

The Apostle admonishes young Timothy to be an example in word. It seems to be popular today to change the meaning of terms as they have been understood by the church for many years. While we find the use of commentaries to be helpful, and we refer to them sometimes when writing a manuscript or teaching Sunday School, we must always remember that they are the ideas of man and not infallible. Using different versions of the Bible can add to the confusion. Going back to the original Hebrew or Greek can be helpful. But even here there is disagreement among those who claim to be authorities.

Next the Apostle Paul instructs Timothy to be an example in conversation. Here is a word that had to be defined. When we think of conversation we think of talking with one another. The old English definition of this word went beyond that. It spoke of your lifestyle. The modern church has given a new definition to the word

"worldliness." Great emphasis is put upon the understanding that worldliness supposedly has nothing to do with your personal activities related to amusement and pleasure. According to modern terminology as interpreted by the "big name" church leaders of our day worldliness also has absolutely nothing to do with the way you dress, wear your hair or decorate your body. This is in direct contradiction of the historical position of most (if not all) of those who were responsible for establishing the various denominations and even independent groups.

The Apostle Paul then instructs Timothy to be an example in charity. Most Bible scholars would agree that "charity" is a type of love. While we can not compromise Scriptural teachings and principles, the need for truth must be balanced with the need for charity. We believe the Apostle Paul is instructing Timothy to be willing to hear out what a brother or sister has to say before making a final judgment on them. There will never be complete agreement as long as we are human. If we have a charitable spirit towards one another most issues can be worked out. Charity also includes being willing to give of our goods to help those less fortunate than we are. This should be especially true of those who are a part of the household of faith.

The Apostle Paul next instructs Timothy to be an example in faith. There is a need for personal faith which we believe has a direct connection to what is often referred to as The Faith. One by one our Brethren practices have been challenged and laid aside by most groups bearing this title. Scriptural understanding and teaching has come under attack. Such things as theistic evolution have become acceptable. The prayer veil (or covering) has become optional or even discouraged. Biblical nonresistance has been replaced by political pacifism or even military involvement. There appears to be evidence that such thinking has had an effect on our Dunkard Brethren Church. We will leave God to decide what has a final effect on our salvation and what does not. But when a group has lost its established faith it has lost its effective witness.

Last of all, the Apostle Paul instructs Timothy to be an example in purity. We are convinced that allowing an erosion of standing firm in the areas of word, conversation and faith along with a false understanding of charity and spirit has led to a less than pure church.

The modern day thinking concerning sexual purity and un-natural sexual practices has had an effect on the earthly church.

We believe the Apostle Paul's next instructions to Timothy are the same instructions the Lord Jesus Christ would give to His Church. "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

We encourage our young ministers and elders to "be thou an example." We encourage our older church leaders to stand by the truths we have held precious and show them the way.

Brother James M. Hite
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A COMPROMISE: "THE CHURCH MUST CHANGE"

A. W. Tozer

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...and they shall turn away their ears from the truth..." II Timothy 4:3-4.

Any evangelism which by appeal to common interests and chatter about current events seeks to establish a common ground where the sinner can feel at home is as false as the altars of Baal ever were.

Every effort to smooth out the road for men and to take away the guilt and the embarrassment is worse than wasted: it is evil and dangerous to the souls of men!

One of the most popular of current errors, and the one out of which springs most of the noisy, blustering religious activity in evangelical circles, is the notion that as times change the church must change with them. Christians must adapt their methods by the demands of the people. If they want ten-minute sermons, give them ten-minute sermons! If they want truth in capsule form, give it to them! If they want pictures, give them plenty of pictures! If they like stories, tell them stories!

Meanwhile, the advocates of compromise insist that "The message is the same, only the method changes."

"Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad," the old

Greeks said, and they were wiser than they knew. The mentality which mistakes Sodom for Jerusalem and Hollywood for the Holy City is too gravely astray to be explained otherwise than as a judicial madness visited upon professed Christians for affronts committed against the Spirit of God!

Selected by Sister Terry Scofield

THE OVER-COMMERCIALIZATION OF CHRISTIANITY

"...of making many books there is no end;..." Ecclesiastes 12:12.

"Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity." Ecclesiastes 12:8.

We often shop at a Christian book store near our home. It is run by plain-living Christians. There is nothing fancy there, just new and used books, tracts, school-supplies, and the like.

In contrast there is the up-to-date, fashionable Christian book store, which I stopped at just yesterday. Its walls are filled with everything imaginable, including clothing covered with slangy mottoes of all sorts and music in all styles. I was amazed to see "Rap" and rock and roll music with a "Christian" message. Unfortunately, the music is the message, and it drowns out any Christianity that would be present. The Greeks used to sit and talk about "new things". (Acts 17:21) It seems the worldly Church has its fashions and its fads. Let this not be named among us.

Also seen along these walls: jewelry of all sorts, of course proclaiming a Christian message. Jesus' message eschewed the adorning of the body with such things, but His Word is ignored. Christians believe that the Christian life extends to all facets of life. You do not just take an ordinary person and stick a gold pin on his lapel that says "Jesus" and has the shape of a cross. All the trappings found in such a store tells us that there are people with too little faith and too much money to spend.

Bible versions go in and out of fashion. Millions of dollars are spent yearly to make the Bible "easier to understand" when we have had the King James since 1611. After all the dust has settled it will still be said that the King James Version was the most accurate. But today it is fashionable to have a more modern version. This

store probably stocks twenty-five or thirty different ones.

Also, commentaries take up a good portion of the walls and display cabinets. A preacher with his Bible and a prayerful heart is worth more than any amount of earthly knowledge. A man who knows God will know His Word. This is preferable to a roomful of books authored by men of unregenerated hearts.

I am not saying that useful things cannot be found in such a place. But give me the old-fashioned store anytime. It harks back to a simpler time, with the essentials of faith-filled Christian life. It may not be as fancy, or as complicated, but God has ordained that we live in modesty, simplicity, and non-conformity to the world.

Close to us is a church in which men and women dress as the world did fifty years ago. We tell others that we are not ruled by fashion. May it ever be so. Are we not slaves of fashion, or are we just behind the times a few years? May God keep us from the mad rush of fashion, whether the world's, or what passes for today's modern Christianity.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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CHILDREN'S PAGE

WILL YOU FORGIVE ME?

Marlene sat on the porch steps holding her favorite doll. Her Aunt Ellie had given it to her on her sixth birthday. Aunt Ellie was her favorite Aunt so that made the doll more special to her. She sang a lullaby as she rocked the doll back and forth in her arms.

Her nine year old brother, Dylan, came around the corner of the house, snatched the doll out of her arms and swinging the doll by one leg, sped across the yard. Marlene ran after him, crying, "Stop! You will hurt my doll!"

But Dylan only laughed and ran faster. Suddenly he tripped over a tree root and fell heavily. The doll's head was broken beyond repair.

"Now, see what you have done!" cried Marlene. She picked up the doll and ran into the house crying, "Mother, Dylan broke my doll!"

My favorite doll! I don't care if he is my brother, I hate him!" She sobbed, "I'll never have another doll I liked so well!"

Mother turned from the stove where she was stirring a pot of soup for dinner. She put her comforting arms about Marlene. "I'm so sorry that your favorite doll is broken, but you don't mean what you said about hating your brother. He likes to tease too well, I know, but I'm sure he didn't mean to break your doll. Surely it was an accident. Where is Dylan? We'll go see if we can find him."

She took Marlene by the hand and walked out the kitchen door. They found Dylan sitting on the ground rubbing his ankle. "Ouch, Oh, Mother, I'm afraid I have sprained my ankle! It hurts so bad that I can hardly stand on it!"

Mother helped him hobble into the house and got him settled on the living room couch. She carefully bound up his ankle. "It's best if you stay off the foot and keep it up till it has a chance to heal. Let this be a lesson to you. Be more kind to your sister. She feels badly that her favorite doll is broken. What should you say to her?"

Dylan felt cross. His ankle pained him, and he felt ashamed as he saw his sister sitting dejectedly in a chair. "I'm sorry, Marlene. I really didn't mean to break your doll, I was just teasing, but I'll save my pennies and get you another doll someday."

Mother looked at Marlene, "Can you forgive your brother? He didn't break your doll purposely. Do you feel sorry for the unkind remark you made about him?"

Marlene looked at her broken doll. She shook her head, "No." Tears were still running down her face. She followed her mother into the kitchen and watched as she prepared a lunch tray for Dylan.

The afternoon seemed long for Dylan as he lay on the couch. His ankle pained him. He felt unhappy as he watched his sister's face. He was sorry to miss his afternoon ball game with the neighbor boy.

Marlene helped wash the dishes and redd up the kitchen. She felt uneasy as she realized her brother was suffering, too.

Mother brought her sewing into the living room and sat down in her favorite rocker. "Marlene, do you know your memory verse for Sunday School tomorrow?"

"Yes," answered Marlene. "It is found in Eph. 4:32. 'Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.'"

"That is a good verse. I'm glad you know it so well. It's not only commendable to memorize verses from the Bible, but it's even more important to act them out in our everyday living. This is pleasing to our Heavenly Father and shows our love to Him, who loves us and cares for us. Christ gave us the best example of forgiveness as He was dying on the cross. He remembered his cruel enemies with love and compassion. He prayed, 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do!'"

Marlene stood thinking for a while. Then she walked over to Dylan, "Would you like to play a game of Chinese Checkers, or Aggravation, or Bible Travelogue? We could set up the folding table right by the couch. I'm sorry I said I hated you. I really didn't mean it."

"It will be fun to play games together and it will help pass the time for me. Will you forgive me for teasing you so much and for breaking your doll, Sis?"

Marlene quickly pulled up the folding table and got the games. She looked at Dylan's anxious face. "Yes, I'll forgive you, Brother!"

Mother smiled as she bent over her sewing.

Sister Maxine Surbey

HAVE YOU....DO YOU....ARE YOU....

Have you a moment to give a little one
Or do you rush about until the day is done?
Are you running around, face all a frown
Or do you smile as you run towards the crown?

Can others see your joyful countenance
Or do you take an offensive stance?
Does your neighbor know you truly care
Or do you pass them with a stare?

Is it more important to you
To show the world what you can do?
In this world where nobody cares too much,
Do you reach out with a loving touch?
Where husbands and wives fall apart,
Do you keep yours close at heart?
Have you given, today, your child a hug,
Or did you pass him off with a shrug?

Are you living for the Awesome Christ
Whom for your sins was sacrificed?
If you are not, today's the day -
Live for Him and He will show you the way.
Shine His loving gospel across the land,
Start today, do not idle stand,
For time is precious and Love is priceless
So share all you have with others today!
-Sister Natalie A. Burgess

BIBLE STORIES

A YOUNG BOY WHO KNEW ALL THE ANSWERS

Once a year Joseph and Mary went up to Jerusalem to keep the feast of the Passover. This was the important event in the lives of the Jewish people. It was to remind them of the time when their people were in Egypt and the death angel killed the oldest son of every Egyptian family. By obeying the Lord, every family of the Hebrews put the blood of a lamb over and on the sides of their doorway, and when the angel saw it he would pass over them and no one in that family would die. This is what is meant by the word "Passover."

When Jesus was twelve years old the time came for them to go up to Jerusalem for the Passover. I can imagine that Jesus really

looked forward to this big event. Jerusalem was a large city for those days. The Temple of the Lord had first been build here by King Solomon. The temple that was here at this time had been built by King Herod, but nevertheless it was still the place where the Jews came to worship God. The top of the temple was covered with gold, and it could be seen shining in the sun for miles. As they came near the great city, people came from all around and the crowd grew larger and larger. There were donkeys and camels to ride on and sheep and cattle for the sacrifices. Most of the people walked. This was an exciting time for all and especially for a boy of twelve years. As they entered Jerusalem there were many poor people, so many sick and crippled. Jesus must have pitied them all. When they arrived at the great temple it looked more like a livestock market than a place of worship. Merchants were selling oxen, sheep, lambs, and birds to the people. Money changers were shouting and arguing with the visitors about their change, as some parts of the country had different kinds of money. And they did not always get their right change either. All of this was disgusting to Jesus because when He grew up He drove the money changers and their animals out of the temple and said, "It is written. My house is the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves."

After the feast of the Passover Joseph and Mary started for home. As usual, there was a large crowd, and although Jesus wasn't with them, they supposed He was with some of their friends, probably with some other young boys. They traveled for a day and when they still did not find Jesus, they turned back toward Jerusalem. On the third day they were really getting worried. In those days there were bandits that sold children into slavery. Finally Joseph and Mary decided to go into the temple. Maybe the priests of the temple could help them. At last they found Jesus, and you couldn't guess where. He was with the lawyers and the learned men of the temple asking them questions and answering them. The Bible says, "And all that heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers." I would like to know some of the questions He answered. It wouldn't make any difference what He was asked, Jesus could tell all that could be told. He was the Son of God and was with His Heavenly Father before the world was made. He knew all about Heaven, all about the earth, and all about man. Even though He

was only twelve years old, He knew He was sent to teach men of the great love that the Father had for mankind, and to save them from their sins.

Joseph and Mary were amazed to find Jesus teaching these older men. Mary said, "Son, why did you stay here? Didn't you know your father and I have been hunting for you and we were so worried?" Jesus replied, "Why did you hunt for me? Don't you know that I must be about my Father's business?" We know that He meant His Heavenly Father, not Joseph. After this, Jesus went home with Mary and Joseph and was obedient to them, but Mary kept all these sayings of Jesus in her heart.

Brother Rudy Cover

THE BOY AND THE MAN

J. H. Moore

The Boy Sermon

While living in the woods, probably at the age of eight, I received my first lesson in New Testament prophecy. A mischievous boy, fully five years older than myself, went with me into the woods to gather plums. It was there that he repeated, in boy diction, what he had heard in a sermon by one of our Brethren. He went on to say that this world was getting old, and that some day it would be destroyed by fire. But before that great day, he continued, Christ is coming to the earth on the clouds of heaven, accompanied by many angels, and the bodies of all the good people will come alive from their graves. The living will be changed and made different, and we will then be permitted to live with Jesus a thousand years on the earth. There will be no devil during this time; everybody will be good. After that the wicked people will be raised to life; then will follow awful times. All the people will be judged, the good passing into heaven and the sinful into punishment. "Then," said my boy friend, "the world will be destroyed, becoming so heated that everything will be melted."

I came from that plum patch in a great state of excitement. For weeks I could think of little else. For the time play lost its charm for me. I might have been placed at ease had I told my mother about the story. But this I did not do. I just continued thinking and wonder-

ing when these great events would begin. I tell this to show that there is a way of filling a boy's head with a story that never leaves him. I may have heard the same thing that my boy friend heard and then narrated to me, but what the preacher said did not take hold of my mind like the story as told by the boy in the plum patch.

Along about this time there came into my life an experience that would naturally stir the blood of a boy. The pioneer man is not always of the most desirable type, and for that reason there is more or less trouble in some localities among the first settlers. The history of the Panther Creek settlement does not show it to have been exempt from difficulties between neighbors. One time, at a sawmill, a man from the prairie approached my father in a quarrelsome spirit. While father remained seated on a log there was some vigorous talking, and finally the man from the prairie, with a strong handspike struck my father, aiming at his head, but father dodging, received the hard blow on his shoulder. Father never attempted to strike back, a thing that he might easily have done with a similar short pole he had in his hands at the time, for, being a church member, he did not believe in fighting, even in self-defense. Some men rushing to the spot put an end to further trouble.

This led to a deal of revengeful feeling on my part, and a little later there came an occasion when I could give an expression to what I thought. One day, when I chanced to remark that I had a pimple on my tongue, my older sister, Margaret, said, "That is a sign that you have told a story." "Well," said I, "Mr.——," mentioning the name of the man who had struck father, "must have a whole lot of them on his tongue." A stern look from my mother, and a vigorous reprimand gave me to understand that this was not the proper way for a boy to talk. Mother never permitted her children to make uncomplimentary remarks about any of the people of the community, however unbecoming their conduct.

Hunting and Cartooning

As I grew older, my parents did what they could to have me take more interest in my school studies. The teachers, while considered efficient for that day, did not understand how to make the school-room attractive for a boy of my type. I cared nothing for books. For me there were other things to think about. With the two dogs, Tige and Pen, I preferred to rumble over the prairies and fields. I would

spend hours at a time hunting rats and gophers. I had learned how to make traps out of cornstalks, and in the winter season I would trap prairie chickens. These were strung up in an outside shed to freeze, and then sold. In this way I made my first money. To a boy of eight and nine there was something about trapping large prairie chickens, sometimes catching two in a trap, that made the blood tingle. I saw nothing in schoolbooks, and knew nothing of school experiences to compare with the outdoor life.

As a side issue I got to cartooning, there being a disposition in my to restore the Egyptian hieroglyphic system to publishing the news of the community by means of pictures. My father had made a rather high wagon bed, which, when not in use, he kept on the woodpile at the roadside in front of the house. Appropriating a piece of his chalk I sketched on this wagon bed many of the scenes of the community. Sometimes I drew hunting and chasing scenes; now and then my own experiences with the dogs in search of small game. One evening my father left his scoop shovel on the woodpile. During the night it disappeared. My parents, as well as some others, thought they knew the man, who appropriated the shovel, he having a neighborhood reputation for doing things of that sort. There came into my mind a picture of this man, on horseback, carrying a large scoop shovel on his shoulder. I decided that as soon as it got light enough the next morning I would place my cartoon on the wagon bed. This, as I thought, would make a sensation. The thing was too good to keep until morning, and on my plans reaching the ears of my father, he then and there put the veto on all my cartooning business. As a result of such home ruling, this creation of my boyhood brain never materialized.

MARRIAGE

MEYERS-AUNGST

Brother Keith Andrew Meyers, son of Brother Lee and Sister Sandra Meyers of Peculiar, Missouri was united in marriage with Sister Dawn Renee Aungst, daughter of Brother Dale and Sister Anita Aungst, Clearville, Pennsylvania, November 12, 1999, at Midway Church of the Brethren. They are residing at P.O. Box 117, Mt. Aetna, Pennsylvania 19544.

OBITUARY

VALERIA A. SWEITZER

Sister Valeria A. (Stump) Sweitzer, 79, of Red Lion, Pennsylvania died at 5:25 A.M., Monday, October 11, 1999, at York Hospital. She was born February 3, 1920, in Plymouth, Indiana. She was the daughter of the late Clarence and Sheila (Rottmiller) Stump.

She was married to Clifton N. Sweitzer on December 2, 1941. They shared 48 years, 11 1/2 months of life together. He preceded her in death in November 1989.

She is survived by a daughter, Pauline and her husband Dennis Warner; a daughter, Alice and her husband Dennis Keeny; a son, George Sweitzer; a daughter, Grace and her husband Dale Blocher; a daughter, Beatrice Sweitzer; a son, Merle and his wife Cindy (Wolfe) Sweitzer; a daughter, JoAnn and her husband Cecil Tompkins; a daughter, Mabel and her husband Don Chupp; thirty-one grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and a host of others who called her "Grandma". She also leaves five brothers: Maurice, Russell, Paul, Joseph and John Stump and three sisters: Luella Shuman, Mary Hartz and Ruth Burtner.

She was preceded in death by a son James, a daughter Betty Jane, two grandsons; Jeffrey Warner and Zachery Sweitzer, a grandson-in-law; Bryan Miller, and two brothers; Edward and Delma Stump.

She was known for her hospitality and good "Pennsylvania Dutch" cooking (chicken corn soup). Her door was always open to one and all.

She accepted the Lord and was baptized on August 8, 1935, joining the Dunkard Brethren Church near Tyner, Indiana. She was a faithful member of the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church, at the time of her death.

The day before her death, she knew it was Sunday and she watched the clock knowing it was time for church to start. She was alert up until the time of her death and she either saw or spoke to each of her children and grandchildren saying her "good-byes" to them. Before we left for the night, we had devotions ending with singing "In The Sweet By And By". Mother joined with the family

singing. We also sang this song for her services. The next morning Mother saw Jesus, held up her hands, took His hand and went to sleep.

Services were held at Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania. We sang, "We'll Never Say Good-bye", "I'll Meet You In The Morning", "Looking This Way", "In The Sweet By And By", "Jesus Loves Me", and "There is Coming A Day". Elder Ray Stuber opened the services, with her son, Elder Merle Sweitzer officiating. His message was "A Tribute To Mother" taken from Proverbs 31:10-31. Interment was at the church cemetery with Elder Paul Hartz officiating.

We have many wonderful memories and she will be greatly missed by all. The family would like to thank each and everyone for their prayers and concerns throughout her illness and death.

The Family

NEWS ITEMS

2000 DUNKARD BROTHERS DIRECTORY

The new 2000 Dunkard Brethren Directory is now ready. They are available from Sister Jolene Andrews, 12306 East 203rd Street, Raymore, MO 64083. The price is \$4.25 each.

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

Please add to the Ministerial List:

John Ledington (M), 809 Red River-West Grove Rd, Laura OH 45337.

The following Brethren have been given new addresses:

Robert Carpenter (E), 6160E 775S, Peru, IN 46970.

Lloyd Lorenz (M), 3949S 100E, Peru, IN 46970

Their telephone numbers remain the same.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Bethel Congregation is looking forward to our Spring Revival, March 12 through 19, 2000. Bro. David Snyder from McClave, Colorado is to be the evangelist. We will appreciate your prayers and

attendance.

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

MC CLAVE, COLORADO

The McClave Congregation is planning to hold Third District Meeting the second week-end in April, Lord willing. The meeting will begin Friday, April 7, with evening services starting at 7:30. There will be Lovefeast services Saturday evening. We welcome all who care to join us for this meeting. May we work together in His will and for His glory!

Sister Arlene Stamy, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation has changed the date for its Spring Lovefeast from April 29-30 to April 15-16. Services begin on Saturday morning at 11:00. Lovefeast will be at 6:00 P.M. Services on Sunday are 7:30 A.M., 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Please come and praise the Lord with us.

Sister Jolene Andrews, Cor.

CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

In October 1999, Clearville became a congregation instead of a mission point. Bro. Marlin Marks presides as Elder. Worship services are every Sunday at 10:00 A.M.

Sister Anita Aungst, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

We are happy to report, by the help of the Holy Spirit, the installation of Brother John Ledington and Sister Marty into the ministry. Brother Don Eberly and Sister Ella were installed into the office of deacon. We covet your prayers in behalf of each new responsibility.

Brother Wendell Montgomery was accepted into our midst upon his former baptism. "When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory..." Proverbs 28:12a.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

APPRECIATION

I want to thank the friend, or friends, that sent me the tapes on

the Leadership Conference held at Dallas Center, Iowa.

The messages were heart searching and thought compelling. May the Lord bless our Leaders in their untiring efforts in taking the work of the church forward.

Brother Otto Harris

ANNOUNCING THE DUNKARD BRETHERN MAILING LIST

I am pleased to announce a wonderful new tool that I believe can greatly bless us as a brotherhood. This tool is the Dunkard Brethren mailing list. It is an e-mail tool we can use to keep in touch long-distance, share news and prayer requests, and discuss issues pertaining to the faith.

HOW TO SIGN UP

Simply send a blank e-mail to dunkardbrethren-subscribe@listbot.com. You will receive an e-mail in reply. You will need to reply to that e-mail to actually be added to the list. You are also free to leave the list at any time.

HOW TO USE IT AFTER YOU'VE JOINED

After you have joined, you may send e-mail to dunkardbrethren@listbot.com. Everyone who is a member of the list will receive your message.

EXAMPLES OF HOW IT CAN BE USED

1. Someone in your family has a serious illness and you want the brotherhood to lift him up in prayer. You send an e-mail to the list asking for prayer, and the list members all over the country receive your request and cry out to God. Your family member takes a turn for the better and you send out a message praising God for answered prayer.

2. You are facing a difficult issue at work, and you do not want to compromise your faith. You send a message to the list explaining your situation and asking for advice. Various elders and ministers on the list give you their advice.

Numerous elders have already joined the list, and I am looking forward to many more of you joining. This is a good way for elders and ministers — and everyone in fact — to bless, encourage and minister to the whole body.

3. You have been thinking about a Biblical issue. You would like to hear how others see things. You send an e-mail and a helpful discussion follows.

Many more examples could be given, but you can see what a blessing this can become to our brotherhood.

I Corinthians 14:12, "Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church."

Romans 14:19, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

I Thessalonians 5:11, "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."

Brother Dean Shaffer

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 2000

April 2 - Set Free To Become Slaves Of Righteousness - Romans 6:16-23.

1. How can we tell to whom we are a servant?
2. Why did Paul not say that eternal life is the result of our goodness and righteousness?

April 9 - The Law Is Death, But Christ Is Life - Romans 7:1-12.

1. How is it possible "to bring forth fruit unto death"?
2. How can we determine what is sinful?

April 16 - Palm Sunday - Triumph And Testimony - John 12:12-36.

1. Why is Palm Sunday called the Triumphant Entry?
2. How can we be the children of light?

April 23 - Resurrection Sunday - Acts 26:1-32.

1. To what was Paul referring when he spoke about "the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers"?
2. Explain how Paul's life can be symbolically compared to death and resurrection.

April 30 - The Law of Sin In Our Flesh - Romans 7:13-25.

1. Why must mankind collectively and individually continually battle sin and our own sinful tendencies?
2. What did Paul mean, "with the flesh" I serve "the law of sin"?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 2000

April 2 - Outward Adorning - I Peter 3:3-4, 12-13.

1. Why is our outward appearance so important to God?
2. What is of great value in the sight of God?

April 9 - A Surrendered Life - Romans 12:1-21.

1. What does God will that we would do with our bodies?
2. Why is leaving vengeance to God a very important part of a surrendered life?

April 16 - Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem - Matt. 21:1-13, Mark 11:1-15

1. What Old Testament prophecies did Jesus fulfill during the Triumphant Entry?
2. How was the cleansing of the Temple by Jesus a symbol of triumph?

April 23 - Easter - Resurrection - Matt. 28:1-8, Mark 16:9-14, Luke 24: 36-37.

1. How is the Resurrection of Jesus an eternal triumph?
2. What symbolism is there in the fact of Jesus' Resurrection being on the first day of the week?

April 30 - Fellowship With Christ - I John 1.

1. Explain true fellowship with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.
2. How can our joy be full?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BEHOLD, THE SAVIOR OF MANKIND

Behold, the Savior of mankind
Nailed to the shameful tree!
How vast the love that him inclined
To bleed and die for thee!

Hark, how he groans! while nature shakes
And earth's strong pillars bend;
The temple's veil in sunder breaks,
The solid marbles rend.

'Tis done! the precious ransom's paid,
Receive my soul! he cries:
See where he bows his sacred head,
He bows his head and dies!

But soon he'll break death's pow'ful chain,
And in full glory shine!
O Lamb of God! was ever pain,
Was ever love like thine?

-Samuel Wesley, Sr.

STANDING IN THE BREACH

We have all heard the legendary story of the little Dutch boy who plugged the dike with his thumb. He used the only means at his disposal to save the whole area from being flooded due to the failure of the dike. Although the story may be a legend, it illustrates the willingness of one to stand in the breach. That one was willing to put himself in danger that others might be rescued from a dangerous situation. He could have ignored the break in the dike and ran for his own safety, but he chose instead to stay and stand in the breach.

There were men who were willing to stand in the breach in the Old testament. The most notable was Moses. While Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving the Law from God, Aaron allowed the people to make a molten calf. That molten calf, one the Egyptian gods, was a reminder of the sins of Egypt. They had forgotten all God had done for them in delivering them from Egypt. Although they were at Sinai, their hearts were still in Egypt. When Moses returned to find this shameful display of paganism among the people, he was angry that they would so quickly turn their back upon their God.

God's righteous anger was even more stirred up than Moses'. He was ready to disown the people that He had brought out of Egypt with such great signs and wonders. He called Moses outside the camp. There He proposed to destroy the people and to

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make of Moses a great nation to replace them.

This could have been a great honor and temptation for Moses. However, rather than accept this boon from God, Moses began to plead for the Children of Israel. He reminded God that He had brought them out in a grand manner that had attracted the attention of all the nearby nations and tribes. Now, Moses said, that if God should destroy them rather than lead them into their Promised Land, that the other nations would say that God was not able to do so. They would doubt His power.

Moses went farther than to plead for the people. He also offered himself as a sacrifice for them. He was willing that God would destroy him rather than destroy his people. God was moved by Moses' willingness to stand in the breach for the people. He allowed the Children of Israel to continue on their journey.

Later Samuel stood in the breach for the Israelites at Mizpeh. Again they had worshipped another of the local deities, rather than God. Samuel had called them together at Mizpeh. There He offered a sacrifice in their behalf that they might be recommitted to God.

Still later, David had the opportunity to stand in the breach as the angel was ready to destroy Jerusalem. David had ordered a census to be taken, which was a sign of pride in the number and situation of his people. The Lord sent the death angel to destroy Jerusalem as a punishment. David appealed to God to not do so, since he had been at fault. After paying the full price for the threshingfloor of Ornan, David offered a sacrifice that God accepted. God then turned from his destructive purpose and commanded the angel to forbear the slaughter.

These examples from the Old Testament serve as forerunners of the One who would for all people stand in the breach. Jesus stood in the breach between God and man. Sinful men had sunk to a level of spiritual and physical debauchery, that totally separated them from God. Man was not qualified to be united with God.

Jesus stood in the breach as He suffered upon the cross. His suffering was not primarily the agony of crucifixion but the agony of bearing the sins of the human race. These sins made Him to be

forsaken by His Father. This terrible sacrifice for the sins of others, not His own, was accepted by God as the fully paid price.

Jesus had stood in the breach between sinful men and an holy God. He was an acceptable sacrifice because He was without sin. He became the Lamb of God offered as the sacrifice of God's unlimited love and grace. Only He could be the mediator between God and man. He was the only one willing to fill that place.

He took the place no man could fill. He took the place that God was not expected to fill. He stood in the breach and offered reunion between man and God.

His offering is available on an individual basis. It must be accepted by faith by each individual. God's Grace is there for all but will only be implemented when it is accepted by the individual who recognizes his personal need for the help offered by God through Jesus Christ.

Jesus stood in the breach for you. Have you accepted what He did for you?

M.C.Cook

PRINCIPLES OF THE CHURCH — THE BODY OF CHRIST

The human body is composed of many parts. These parts, functioning as one, are a marvelous creation of God. So it is with the body of Christ, the church. No man can say, "I am the church". The church is composed of many members.

Likewise, there are many truths that define the church. No single truth defines the whole. This article will examine six principles, found in the Word, that reveals some of the characteristics of the church.

The New Birth Jesus said, "...ye must be born again." This new birth is a fundamental truth on which the church is built. It embraces the forgiveness of man's sins, the renewal of spiritual life and the power for a victory over a sinful life. Without the new birth there is no church. The new birth is realized when the faith of man reaches out to the grace of God.

In practice, a person should not be received into the church if there is not evidence of a conversion.

Purity The Scripture says that "...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it: That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5:25-27) We see here the power of Jesus Christ to cleanse men through His Word. There is a cleansing and purity that only God, through the merits of the shed blood of His Son, can bring to effect in our lives. This is a purity that we could never attain. It is the forgiveness of all past sins and a declaration of justness that we do not deserve.

However, this does not allow us to live our life without any further responsibilities regarding purity. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." (II Cor. 7:1) Purity for the individual is a sincere seeking of a condition of the heart and lifestyle that pleases God. Purity in the church, Christ's body, is a responsibility that members share with each other.

Purity means unmixed. "For the grace of god that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world." (Titus 2:11-12)

There is a corporate or group responsibility in this issue. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians deals specifically with impurity that had entered into their fellowship. He asked the Corinthian church to deal with the offender for two reasons. First, that the offender might be saved through repenting of his sin and secondly, Paul says this sin must be dealt with as a body so that the influence of this sin would not spread. "...Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." (I Cor. 5:6) Both the offender and the "standard" were important to Paul.

So, can a church or congregation ever be perfectly pure? No, most likely not. However, a "pure" church is one that has a high sense of moral, ethical and spiritual purity. Each member will be alert to struggling or failing brothers and sisters in the body and move with prayer, encouragement, warning or whatever other ac-

tion necessary to restore these individuals to a pure walk before the Lord.

Unity Genuine spiritual unity is a powerful witness of Jesus Christ to the world. "That they may all be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:21) What is spiritual unity? We perceive that the fullness of the answer can only be understood as we begin to grasp the oneness in the Father-Son relationship.

There is that which appears to be unity that is not unity at all. Toleration is not unity. The lack of open conflict for the moment does not mean there is unity. True spiritual unity cannot be built around an individual. Force cannot build unity. A good system of government in the church cannot, alone, build unity.

True spiritual unity can only have one foundation. Truth. Untruth will always, in the end, destroy any supposed unity. Our ability to unify depends greatly on our willingness to submit as individuals to the truth of the Word and the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Authority Authority is essentially the power or right to act or make decisions that affect the lives of others. Parents have the right to make decisions for their children. Civil rulers have the right to make decisions that affect the citizens. All authority is from God. Hence, authority is very closely tied to accountability. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief." (Heb. 13:17) There is authority given by God to those called to lead in the church. Decisions do need to be made. It is a work essentially of nourishment and protection, that is, "watching for souls". In the setting of the church, we believe that authority is placed with the chosen leadership and to some degree also the membership (note I Cor. 5:4-5 "...when ye are gathered together...deliver such an one unto Satan...").

Discipline Discipline can mean instruction, control or punishment. Discipline can be both preventive and corrective. Teaching, preaching and edifying are spiritual terms that would characterize preventive discipline. Warnings, removing privileges or even membership would be examples of corrective discipline in the setting of the church.

When self-discipline fails, we need the discipline of another. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." (Heb 12:6a) The purpose of discipline in the church is not to punish, but to restore. When the individual fails, to discipline is a love response. Sometimes the unpleasant aspects of discipline obscure the benefits. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness to them which are exercised thereby." (Heb. 12:11)

We join the church voluntarily and by this we agree to submit to her discipline. Discipline is necessary to preserve the purity and the witness of the church.

Polity Polity speaks mainly of the written statements a group of believers have adopted. A polity will usually include a statement of beliefs about God, man, sin, salvation, and so forth. It will also include the agreed upon form of government, the ordinances and how they will be carried out, as well as the group's understanding of an appropriate life-style for the age in which we live.

A good policy helps clarify and define the church community so that each member knows what the expectations for him might be. Good policy obviously must be built on the principles of God's word. We recognize the dangers of overemphasis on a written policy as well as the danger of "no policy". Without the presence of Christ in a church, policy becomes meaningless.

A New Testament example of church policy being formulated is found in Acts 15. First, it was established and publicly declared that circumcision was not necessary for salvation as some were asserting. Secondly, there were decisions made concerning issues of sensitivity involving both Jewish and Gentile Christians. These were not issues of absolute wrongness in God's view. But, to bring peace and to remove stumbling stones, the Jerusalem council, with the assurance of the Holy Ghost, set forward a policy with the expectations that it would be adhered to in all the churches.

These are not all the principles that characterize the church, but they help us understand what is the nature of the church. We do know if we ignore what God has revealed as being true about the church we will fail or at the least be weak. The church in Western society apparently has a poor understanding of some of these

principles. Because of this, her power and testimony is weak and often ineffective. Too often these truths are rejected because of man's desire to build the church on his terms and with his methods.

Brother Dennis St. John

KENYA KNOTES

Tuesday, March 7, 2000

Needless to say we were up all night packing, only had thirty minutes of sleep. There were quite a few there to help take us to the airport at Harrisburg. We had tons of luggage! When we went to the counter to start checking in the gentleman said, "You've got to be kidding." It was only a small commuter plane. So they had to put people on another plane so it wouldn't be over-weight. Then they weren't going to let us go because we didn't have a return ticket. The agent had to call several places till he got the okay that we could go. Saying good-by wasn't easy, but...

There were only five other people on the plane and we all had to sit in the front. They ended up taking more luggage off. Thankfully our plane made it safely on to Detroit, it was a noisy flight, but smooth. The flight was two hours long, landed about 2:30 P.M.

Our next flight left for Amsterdam at 4:30 P.M. It was a large plane with nine seats across and almost full. We arrived in the rain at 6:10 A.M. (1:00 A.M. American time). We took a long hike across the airport only to find out we were at the wrong gate! So back across the airport we went! We all took naps till it was time to board again. Our flight left at 10:45 A.M. and landed at 9:25 P.M. in Nairobi (1:30 P.M. American time). It was a real beautiful flight we were able to see land most of the time. Saw the Alps, Nile River, and lots of desert land, it was totally awesome! The plane wasn't very full so we could just sit wherever we wanted. This plane only had seven seats across.

We had no trouble getting through customs or with our passports. PTL! Paul and Mary, Hosea and Joseph were there to meet us. They had the van there and they rented a car to take all our things. We slept at the Mennonite Guest House. It felt so good to get a good shower and climb into bed.

Thursday, March 9

We had to be at breakfast at 7:30 A.M. We had a good breakfast of baked oatmeal, papaya, and tea. We only had the van to go back to Kapenguria, so we left ten pieces of luggage at the guest house. We'll pick them up when we take Paul's to the airport. We stopped at the grocery store but they weren't open until 9:00 A.M.

The country side is really beautiful. Lots of rolling hills, rather dry right now. We saw a few herd of zebras and gazelle. We saw two baboons sitting along the road, too.

We had a dinner invitation in Nakura, about 2 1/2 hours into our journey, at The Lamp and Light Mission. They have a school and have a place where they print literature. There were four to five families there for lunch and we had a very enjoyable visit and a delicious lunch of chicken and rice casserole, lettuce, salad, tapiooca and cake.

We left there with a 4 1/2 hour drive ahead of us. As we were heading up a mountain the van started spitting and sputtering and jerking. When going up one hill it stopped. Merle took a hose off, he thought it was the fuel pump. We got it started and asked for the nearest service center, so we ended up turning around. We found a mechanic and he cleaned out the carburetor, which took less than an hour and he wanted 7000 shillings (\$100.00). We did get him down to 3000 shillings (\$40.00).

We made it safely to the mission house about 7:00 P.M. We had an invitation for supper in one of the sister's homes. We used flashlights to walk down a path to her house. We had a good supper of whole boiled potatoes, chapatis, (kind of like soft taco shells) two kinds of stew, the one was probably goat and the other liver, noodles, rice and tea. It all tasted good, but we couldn't see what we were eating very well, by kerosene light.

Friday, March 10

Mary did her washing. Washing here is a story all in itself. We set up three tubs: one to wash the clothes in, the other two to rinse in. Everything is scrubbed by hand after you let it soak awhile. Then you squeeze it out and put it in the rinse water, then you squeeze it out again. Then you put it in the last tub to rinse then

you squeeze it out again. Did you ever try squeezing out jeans? Try it sometime! Every time you ladies wash say a prayer for me. I'm going looking for a wringer washer next week!! The wash line is another story. It's rope strung from tree to tree. Well you know how rope gets when it is strung too far, it sags way down. Put props under it and the wind comes along, the props switch directions and your wash drags on the ground. Enough for wash day. I'm not complaining, just telling you how things really are.

We all went to Kataile. Stopped for the mail, got a card from Jason Reeds, thanks! We went to the grocery store while the men went to the bank. Then we all went to a couple of hardware stores to find supplies to fix the water lines. We stopped at the outdoor market to get some potatoes and pineapples, they are out of this world!

Also stopped at the market in Makatano (just a mile from the house). There we got tomatoes, carrots, eggs, and cabbage.

A young boy stopped in here for medical help. The men took him to the hospital but the Doctor took off for the day so they took him to the Doctor right here in town. He was a real nice Christian man. The boy had a bad eye infection, was treated and given medicine.

Did some unpacking. Mary made cabbage and cornbeef for supper. We read e-mail after supper.

During devotions while we were singing a mouse appeared from somewhere. The guys all took off after it but the mouse got away. He probably had a heart attack with all the commotion.

Saturday, March 11

Did the washing, Chad helped. Two men came to have a meeting with Paul and Merle. The guys had an appointment with the community about the water project, also.

Mary washed the floors with the rinse water when I was done washing. I emptied more suitcases.

The water was turned off and the water storage tank was about empty so they decided to take it down and scrub it down. After three years it needed it real bad. There was about two inches of

mud on the bottom.

For supper we had baked potatoes, peas and carrots, and pine-apples.

Sunday, March 12

Had morning services at 9:30 out under the trees. The children had Sunday School on the topic of "Making the Right Choice." There were eighty two here. Merle preached on the "Sovereignty of God." Everyone seemed real nice and friendly. So many people's names to remember.

Had chicken, mashed potatoes (hand mashed), tomatoes and pineapples for dinner.

The children played with the other children and also played soccer.

Afternoon services are at 4:00 P.M., that way they can be home before dark. Paul preached a farewell message on "Keeping On." There weren't too many here, maybe twenty five. We had just had a shower of rain so we had the services on the porch.

Monday, March 13

A beautiful sunny day about 80 degrees. Merle, Paul, Chad and Derrick went to do a water-pipe repair.

I did some wash and the children started school. What a job! I don't know if I admire you mothers that homeschool or if I think you are crazy. It sure is not my cup of tea. I'd rather scrub clothes by hand.

The guys were in and out. They had to run to Kataile for more supplies for the water project and for brakepads for the van and picked up some groceries. They got four places fixed in the water pipe with one more to go.

Did some cleaning and had bean soup and cornbread for supper.

After devotions two mice appeared again, and this time they didn't escape. Such scrambling around!

Tuesday, March 14

Another beautiful sunny day. The weather is just awesome,

but we do need the rain. The rainy season will be starting soon. The boys are hoeing up the garden plot with homemade hoes.

Got the girls started in school and washed again. It's easier to keep after, doing a little bit each day.

Paul, Merle, Chad and Derrick went to finish up the water-pipe repair. Derrick and Merle put brake pads on the van.

Mary, the girls and I walked to market. We should have put suntan lotion on, we all got sunburned noses. We met the neighbor girl (Salomi) she showed us where to get some beef. We just told them how much we wanted and they just hack it off with a knife. We also got carrots and tomatoes. We were rather tired till we got home, but we needed the exercise.

For supper we made stew with beef, rice, carrots, tomatoes, cabbage and onions. Mary made chapati.

Hope this newsletter didn't bore you, just thought we'd let you all know how our first week went. God bless you all and keep us and the believers here in your prayers.

Sister Cindy and All

Greetings From Kenya

As we sit in Jomoto airport, Nairobi, waiting for our flight home, we send greetings from Kenya. We have just completed our ninth mission trip to Africa. Each trip has been somewhat stressful but very rewarding. We find the mission field is wide open for anyone who feels the calling of God to go to the mission field.

As we started on our six and one half hour journey from Kapenguria to Nairobi early this morning, Bro. Merle got more practice dodging potholes along the way and the children enjoyed finding the zebras, gazelles and a few monkeys by the wayside. Road improvements are very nil in Kenya, so it seems each year they get a little worse.

We were anxious for the day to arrive so we could return home but it was hard to bid farewell to all our Kenyan brothers and sisters, as well as to Bro. Merle and Sis. Cindy and family. We wish God's blessings on them as they labor together. We enjoyed our ten day stay with them and feel we have accomplished a lot, both

for the community and also for the Kingdom of God. We repaired one water project and finally got the large project finalized and started. Hopefully in a few months they will have water flowing to Makutano from the spring on the hillside.

After very stressful days, family time in the evenings were enjoyed with a few games with the children. Receiving and reading e-mail was a highlight of the evenings. It was a delight to gather around the computer and read all the mail from home. We encourage all who can to keep sending words of encouragement to the Sweitzers as they have committed a year of their busy life to the service to the Lord. Our evening devotions were both inspirational and exciting as seemed like nearly every evening as we were singing we were visited by a little mouse running across the living room floor. (I guess they also enjoyed the singing.) This created quite a lot of excitement as the girls took to the chairs and the boys to the mouse. We either caught the little creature or scared him to death since the one that got away did not show up again.

Services were well attended throughout our stay. We had Sunday morning services in the yard under the tree. Sunday evening services and Bible study on Thursday evenings were held on the porch of the mission house. Attendance averaged from forty five to seventy five increasing every Sunday. At the close of Sunday School classes the children would be running around the compound playing and not in service. I made a request that they should return to the church services and listen to the preaching of the Word. Praise the Lord!! the following Sunday it was a joy to see all the children following their teacher, Bro. Kennedy to the service and sitting quietly all during the service. We pray that these young children will grow up to be strong leaders in the church.

We enjoyed our first two weeks with Bro. Fred Pifer. We spent many stressful hours during this time settling difficulties and problems that have developed in recent months, but are thankful most have been settled. We trust that God will continue to touch and tender their hearts that love and peace will continue among them. One of the greatest problems that we have is untruthfulness. We trust God will open their hearts to understand that no liar will enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but will find themselves in the Lake of Fire.

We enjoyed our six weeks stay in Kenya. Each time seems to make the bond of love to each other a little stronger. Our prayer is that others may share the blessings of being missionaries on the mission fields of Kenya. The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Please remember Bro. Merle and Sis. Cindy and their family as they serve Him there. May their lives be richly blest.

Brother Paul and Sister Mary Stump

Greetings to you all from Kenya!

We are all doing fine and adjusting to life in Kenya. Don't really know where to begin. Life in Kenya is real busy. We could use some more help over here. We normally have our evenings free, but they are spent catching up what we didn't get done throughout the day. You may as well not plan your day here. It never works out like you planned any way. It's just a hit or miss situation here. It's a time of trying your patience, also.

March 17 Paul and Mary Stump left for the states, so now we are on our own.

Well, we graduated to an automatic washer, if you can call it that. It sure is better than washing everything out by hand. The automatic washer took a little bit of time to get figured out, but I think we got it figured out by now. I set it at #1, then set the timer for twenty five minutes. It fills up and washes in this cycle. Then I turn the knob to #6 to spin out, then to #7 for twelve minutes to fill up and rinse. Then I turn it to #13 to spin out and then to #14 to spin out again. One load takes about one and a half hours. I only do about four loads a day. It only holds five pair of jeans at a time. Merle needs to get poles to make a good washline. The wash doesn't take long to dry, with the type of weather we are having right now.

The weather has just been awesome. It gets up to 75-80 everyday. Evenings it cools off. Every now and then you need a sweater, first thing in the morning. It is real still in the mornings, then at 11:00 A.M. the wind picks up, and it is real breezy all day and gets quite windy in the evenings. We only had rain twice since we are here. Everyone is waiting for rain so then they can plant their crops. They usually have them planted by now. So we pray it

will rain soon or things will really be bad here.

Sunday services are held here on the compound under the trees on benches. We'll probably have to hold them in the living room when the rainy season starts. For morning services attendance is eighty to one hundred about half are children, all in one class. We need to get some other classes organized soon. Evening services we have on the porch, attendance has been around fifty. Thursday evening at 4:00 P.M. is Bible study with attendance around fifty. Thursday afternoon at 2:00 P.M. the women meet for Bible study. I will be teaching twice a month. Merle is kept real busy running here and there. He has been working with Kapenguria to get the water lines straightened out and to get more water into the town. A lot of people want money for starting business, seed to plant crops and so forth. He has been doing a lot of checking out to see if they really need money or if they are just looking for a handout. Most of it is done on a loan basis. The more you give these people the more they want. It is so hard to tell someone "No". They live so poor over here. Think we need to start some classes on financial management. He also takes a lot of people to the clinic and the hospital.

We had to take Sister Jane Anlyanigo to the hospital in Eldoret, a two hour drive. Merle and I went and we took James, Amelda and Frank along. James was our interpreter. We got there just after 9:00 A.M. We went to about three different places till we were signed in. Then she went to one room that gave her a paper to go to another room. After she was examined we had to go to another building to get x-rays taken. We were told to come back in an hour, the Doctor was out for lunch. So we went to town and came back and they said it would be another half hour. We were then sent back to the other building where she had to see another doctor. He was out for lunch and it would be another hour till he was back. Merle, James and I went for groceries and to market for fruits and vegetables. The doctor gave the report that she had to stay for further testing. We went to two places to find out which ward she was to go to. We finally found it. The doctor did another examination before they admitted her. It was 4:30 P.M. till we finally left there.

All you medical people wouldn't believe these hospitals. I hope none of us ever have to go there. We'd probably die before we were treated. In the ward where Jane stayed, there were four beds in a section, just a wall between the sections, all hallways were open, no privacy whatsoever! They did have portable folding partitions, if needed. The beds had a sheet on and a sheet to cover with and an old scratchy wool army blanket.

The place was pretty clean, by African standards. There were cleaning ladies as we left the admissions office, cleaning the hallways. They would sprinkle the floor with a white disinfectant powder, then they would splash water onto that. We were walking by and got splashed some. Then they scrub it with a broom, then mop it up. The restrooms consist of a ceramic toilet in the floor, yes, floor level, and a tank up at the ceiling which has a string to pull for flushing. Oh! There is also no toilet paper, or paper to wipe your hands. I always carry toilet paper and hand sanitizer in my purse at all times. It comes in real handy. I don't know what these people do and I'm not asking either!

I also had the privilege to visit the Kapenguria Hospital. One of the sisters from the church was there for two nights. We kept her thirteen month old son Frank for those two nights. It went pretty well. He woke once during the night and I couldn't find him. All I could see is two little white eyes. That was the only thing humorous about being woke up at 2:00 A.M. in the morning. The poor guy, he probably thought a ghost was coming after him.

This hospital, well...There were eight beds per section. They had plastic covered pillows without pillow cases. A sheet to lay on and a wool blanket to cover with. At this hospital they have no food preparation. The family must bring in the food every day. The one lady who had her bed next to the window was peeling an orange and throwing the peels out the window. If some fell on the floor, so what. There were some awful sights there. I was glad to get out of there! Any of you people in the medical profession could really come in handy over here.

Home schooling is going all right. And no, I am not planning on homeschooling when we get back to the states, just in case you are wondering. Even my students will admit I am not a good teacher.

Chad and Derrick help out if I'm needed outside the compound.

We usually have at least three people or more stop at the compound every day wanting some kind of assistance. I usually go along with the sisters to the clinic for treatments. People coming asking for food. The other day a sister from church was here for food. She has two small children and they didn't eat at all the day before. Her husband was out of town looking for a job. I don't give out money and Merle wasn't home so I gave her a bag of maize flour, sugar, tomatoes, mango and bananas and she was so grateful. It is so hard to discern who needs help. Only the Lord knows.

The children are really enjoying themselves here. Chad and Derrick usually go along with Merle on any church work. So he has a witness of what he told them. So they are learning how to handle these situations, too. There is a lot of work to be done at the compound but...the guys are out trying to work out some problem or other. They have the garden ready to plant. They did start a hot bed with squash, tomatoes, watermelon and cabbage. They say we must wait for the rain to plant the rest of the seeds.

We went up north to the church in Ortum last Monday and had services for them. There were about forty eight there. We also took maize for each family. It is really dry up in that area and their crops did really poor last year. All the sisters asked for new prayer veils and some want to be baptized in the near future.

We also stopped at Chapcornishwa for services at 2:00 P.M. The people there were quite a happy bunch. They could really sing. Angel had to put her hands over her ears, that really made them laugh. Pokot is the language they speak. We went to the minister's home after church. As soon as we were there one of the boys caught a chicken. I thought, "Oh, no! Is she going to fix a meal." But here she gave it to Angel for a gift. So we brought a chicken home in the back of the van with it's two legs tied together. No one ever knows what they'll end up doing here in Africa. I also learned that you always make sandwiches at home, or you need to make them on the move. Other wise you have your van surrounded with hungry children. I don't know how many nevers I fulfilled here in Africa already, and we're only here a month.

We trust you are all doing fine. Continue to pray for us as we

serve the Lord here in Kenya. We face many challenges, but we know, God is faithful and all things will work together to bring glory to Himself.

Our Love in Christ!
Sister Cindy and All

CHILDREN'S PAGE

NO NEW DRESS FOR EASTER

Rosemary dumped her school books on the kitchen table and sat in a chair near by. "I think it is too bad I don't have a new dress to wear for Easter this Sunday! All the girls were telling about their new Easter dresses as we walked home from school. Sally's is blue, Karen's is yellow, Nita's is lavender, and Brenda's is pink. They asked me what color my new dress was and I told them I didn't have a new dress for Easter. They were shocked and said that everyone always has a new outfit for Easter! It's not fair."

Mother turned from the stove where she had just slipped in a tray of cookies. She looked at Rosemary's pouty face. "I suppose all the dresses in your closet are raggedy and full of holes?"

"Of course not, Mother," Rosemary giggled in spite of herself.

"Then I'm sure there are several dresses that would be suitable for you to wear on Easter. Easter should certainly mean more than a new outfit of clothes, Easter bunny baskets, egg hunts and the like. Neither is it necessary to have things just because others have them. Why don't you use the money that you would spend on a new dress and buy a plant or Easter Lily and give it to a shut-in like old Mrs. Hopkins, who is so crippled with arthritis. She will not be able to attend church on Easter Sunday and will appreciate a little cheer. It's always a good feeling to make someone happy. I'm sorry my little girl is unhappy about not having a new dress for Easter, but it's really not important. What is important is to realize that Christ loved us so much that He died on the cross for our sins, rose from the grave and will come again someday to take us back with Him to live forever in His presence. Because He lives, we too, shall live!"

"When will Christ come again?" asked Rosemary.

"We don't know when He will come. Not even the Angels in Heaven know, but we do know that as He ascended in the clouds so will He come again in the clouds. We want to be watching and ready to meet Him when He does come. One way we can be ready to meet Him is to be kind and thoughtful of others. Jesus set us an example as He went about doing good."

Rosemary thought over what her mother had said. She got up and went to the phone to talk to her friends.

After services, Easter Sunday, as a result of Rosemary's calling, a group of girls hurried up the steps of an old fashioned house. Rosemary was carrying a potted Easter Lily, while the other girls had a small bouquet of Daffodils, jonquils, and crocus.

When Nita knocked on the door, an elderly man with a shock of white hair opened the door. "Why what have we here?" he exclaimed. "Come in! Come in! Mother, we have company!" he called over his shoulder.

He led the girls into the living room where his wife sat in her wheel chair. She greeted the girls with a smile. "What a pleasant surprise!" she said. "Get a vase for the flowers, Father."

"We came to sing for you since you didn't get to our Easter services. We thought you might enjoy hearing some Easter songs."

"I surely would!" she said. They sang, "Up From the Grave He Arose!", "The Stone Rolled Away", "He Lives!", and several others. "Your voices blended well and harmonized nicely. Thank you so much. We are so glad you came!"

"Be sure to come again," said Mr. Hopkins as he let them out the door.

As the girls walked home they discussed how much they had enjoyed singing for the elderly couple and decided to do more visiting in the future for the "shut-ins" in the community.

That evening as Rosemary got ready for bed she hanged up her dress in her closet that she had worn that day. "I had such a good time today, I didn't miss not having a new Easter dress. It really wasn't important after all."

Sister Maxine Surbey

THE ULTIMATE

One offering, one sacrifice,
Atonement once for all;
His living sacrifice fulfills
Each precept of the law.
Each needed offering of old
Is hung upon the cross;
The perfect, one-time sacrifice
For sinners, doomed and lost.

A burnt offering at first was He:
In agony, His will
He burned in dark Gethsemane,
The Scriptures to fulfill.
A peace offering He died that day:
No anger shown, nor strife,
A bond of peace from God to man,
In peace He gave His life.

Our sacrifice for sin was He:
Spotless and perfect Lamb.
Upon the altar of the cross
He shed His blood for man.
A trespass offering: there He hung,
For us unclean; our guilt
Was borne by Him upon the tree,
A rugged altar built.

The ultimate of sacrifice

He gave for us, the least.
And then He rose from offering
To be our heavenly Priest!
By God's right hand He sits to plead
For US, He gave the ultimate,
And paid our way to Heaven.

-Sister Arlene Stamy
McClave, CO

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HOUSE TO HOUSE TRACT DISTRIBUTION

Distributing Gospel tracts is not only necessary, but it is protected by the United States Supreme Court. Many places have ordinances regulating door to door sales. They say, "NO PEDDLING OR SOLICITING WITHOUT A PERMIT". If we do it correctly, then we are not peddling or soliciting. If we are inviting people to a gospel meeting, or giving them a gospel tract, then we are extending an invitation. There are no strings attached. I spent some time in sales work and every new area I worked in I had to get a permit. Many places permits were not given. When they were, they cost money. We need not bother with permits when distributing gospel tracts. Doing so is protected by law. It has gone as far as the Supreme Court.

At the first Pentecost, we are told that the early believers, "filled Jerusalem with their doctrine" and "broke bread from house to house." (Acts 5:28 and 2:46) To them, nothing was more important than the spread of their message. Today, we are afraid of personal contact. It is easier to pay for an advertisement in a newspaper to announce our meetings. Nothing is wrong with such ads, but there is no substitute for personal invitations. People will remember your face, especially if it has the glow of Christ about it. Always give printed literature at each stop, so they know where the meetinghouse is and when the meetings are.

Most of our meetinghouses have quite a large number of people

within a one-mile radius, and area maps are usually available at your local courthouse. Using a map, the chore can be divided very democratically. Start at the church house and work your way in all directions. Familiarize yourself with the area if you have not already. OMIT NO ONE. Have your Bible ready to answer questions. Be prepared to be cursed at and to have doors slammed in your face. But also be prepared for a blessing, because encountering hungry souls and feeding them the gospel is worth all the effort we can put forth. Meet at the church house and pray before going out. Those physically unable to canvas can stay at the meetinghouse and pray while the visitation takes place.

Some have said that it is all a waste of time. This writer knows better. I was not raised among the Brethren. Someone had to come to me. If only one person comes, what is the worth of one soul?

On the masthead of the MONITOR it says, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel." We have gone to Africa, and we have gone to New Mexico. Let us go to our neighbors with the same glorious message. Many of our congregations have never done door-to-door canvassing, or if they have, it has been many years ago.

What do the people living down the road think of us if all they see of us is our vehicles on a Sunday morning? Do they know us? We will gather for Sunday service, or for church cleaning, or for council meeting, or for a work day. Let us gather to spread the gospel. Let us gather to invite others. Luke 14:23 says, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

When they do come, have a spiritual feast ready for them. Show them the Love of Jesus. Welcome them. Be friendly. Do not disappoint them with pettiness. Show them that truly you have been with Jesus.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

BIBLE STORIES

JESUS, THE CARPENTER'S SON

After Jesus, with Joseph and Mary, returned home from the temple, the Bible says, "He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject unto them...And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Only twenty eight words, but it is all the Bible tells about the next eighteen years of His life.

To be subject unto His parents means that He obeyed them. He did what He was asked to do cheerfully and graciously, never grumbling or complaining. I cannot help but think He was a happy youth, singing much of the time. What a wonderful example He was for us all! If you would be like Jesus, you must be kind, loving, and obedient to your parents, helping them all you can.

As time went on He increased in wisdom. There was no high-schools or colleges at that time like we have today. No doubt Jesus studied the scriptures and above all prayed to His heavenly Father. He became wiser than anyone who ever lived on earth before or after Him.

He also increased in stature: He grew taller and developed into a young man. He never let Himself begin bad habits of any kind. I suppose other boys in Nazareth did many foolish things that weakened their bodies and spoiled their characters, but I am sure Jesus would have nothing to do with their careless ways. His life was dedicated to a great purpose, as ours should be. Because He lived a good clean life and developed into such a wonderful character, He increased in favor with God and man.

We know the heavenly Father was pleased with this young man. He was surely respected by people around Him. They loved Him because He was so gentle, kind, and friendly, because He was pure and truthful, so sympathetic and thoughtful of others.

What an example He set for us! Today, nearly two thousand years later, He wants us to follow in His steps. If we do, we too will increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Brother Rudy Cover

BRETHREN ENCYCLOPEDIA UPDATE

Did you ever experience times when you questioned our stand on issues like non-resistance, baptism for believers, the full love feast including feet washing, or our stand on non-conformity to the world? Do you wonder why we are different from other Christians? There are many other people who call themselves Christians who are very zealous, and who very much disagree with us on these issues. Does our uniqueness come from teachings in the Bible, or are they just man-made traditions?

There were many Godly saints who were Anabaptists, who believed in the distinctive doctrines that we believe in and in the face of tremendous odds remained faithful to God. It is due to people like those on the Brethren Encyclopedia Board of Directors and people that are deep into Brethren history, that accounts and beliefs of the lives of these faithful people are being preserved, and have become available to us. Through the work of those involved with The Brethren Encyclopedia, we can learn more about our Brethren heritage!

The Brethren Encyclopedia Board of Directors is made up of representatives of the five major Brethren groups, all of whom trace their origin to 1708 and Alexander Mack. They are: The Brethren Church (Joseph R. Shultz), Church of the Brethren (Dale V. Ulrich), Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (Charles W. Turner), Old German Baptist Brethren (Fred W. Benedict), and the Dunkard Brethren (Jacob C. Ness). In April of 1999, the Board was expanded to include a new denomination, the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International. Rev. John E. Bryant from Mount Vernon, Ohio, represents this new Brethren body on the Brethren Encyclopedia Board of Directors. Also meeting with the Board on a regular basis are Ronald G. Lutz (Assistant Treasurer), Donald F. Durnbaugh (Editor of The Brethren Encyclopedia), William R. Eberly (Editor of the Monograph Series). Due to the ill health of Jacob C. Ness, Robert Lehigh has been filling in for him at the Board Meetings.

The involvement of the Dunkard Brethren Church with the Brethren Encyclopedia Project was affirmed by General Conference in 1978. Brother Howard Surbey had his heart in this project, as did

Brother Jacob Ness. If we care about our legacy, our unique church history, and about preserving and passing along our heritage, we will want to fully support the work of the Brethren Encyclopedia Board of Directors.

Update of Volume 4

The work of compiling and editing the materials gathered for Volume 4 is well underway. The first three volumes were released in 1983-84. This fourth volume will contain new articles on developments since 1980, corrections and additions to the data of the first three volumes, and a comprehensive index to all data in the four volumes.

A team from Bridgewater College in Virginia has been scanning the text of the first three volumes into computers and proofing the data to prepare for the compilation of the index. (Can you imagine trying to run the text of The Brethren Encyclopedia through a spell-checker?) There are so many names and terms that are not common in today's English, that all the proofreading has to be done by human beings. Fortunately, a company has been located that can translate the data on the old magnetic word processor disks (state of the art in the late 1970's) into something that modern-day computer programs can read.

Price Increase on The Brethren Encyclopedia

If you were ever thinking of purchasing a set of The Brethren Encyclopedia, now is the time. The Board of Directors has approved a price increase as of August 2000. So you only have a few months left to purchase the first three volumes at the current price of \$130.00 plus \$7.00 for postage and handling. These can be ordered from Robert Lehig. Also, those installed into the ministry can purchase the set for a discount (\$102.00 inclusive) anytime during the first year after their installation. (I recently learned that we **install** ministers, and **ordain** elders. Whatever....!)

And by the way, if you would like to contribute \$1,000.00 or more toward the expenses of bringing Volume 4 to publication, the Board of Directors will express their appreciation by giving you a complete set of The Brethren Encyclopedia (Volumes 1-3 now, and Volume 4 when it is published). You will also receive a mounted

page from a Bible that was printed by Christopher Sauer. Those contributing \$500.00 will receive a copy of Volume 4. (Just be sure you do not get a swelled head from all this recognition — or you will lose your reward in Heaven!) In any case, the goal is to have \$100,000.00 on hand for publication expenses for the fourth volume. About \$30,000.00 has been donated so far. Any donations you wish to make should be sent to the assistant treasurer, Rev. Ronald Lutz at:

Brethren Encyclopedia
313 Fairview Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002

New Book Issued in The Brethren Monograph Series

Oops! You did not know about The Brethren Monograph Series? Where have you been? Oh well, maybe I have not been as good at publicity as I should have been. Well, allow me to tell you about it!

The Brethren Monograph Series is an ongoing project of the Brethren Encyclopedia Board of Directors designed to print books (research papers, scholarly journals, and so forth) on Brethren history and beliefs which would not otherwise be made available to the public. They include The German Hymnody of the Brethren by Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, The Background and Development of the Brethren Doctrines 1650-1987 by Dale R. Stoffer, Brethren Beginnings by Donald F. Durnbaugh, Hochmann Von Hochenau 1670-1721 by Heinz Renkewitz and translated by William G. Willoughby, and Brethren Dress/A Testimony to Faith by Esther Fern Rupel.

A sixth volume, The Beliefs of the Early Brethren 1706-1735 by William G. Willoughby, is now available for \$38.00. A review of this book by William R. Eberly follows.

A catalog with a description of all the available publications of the Brethren Encyclopedia and order form is available upon request from the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

MONOGRAPH 6: THE BELIEFS OF THE EARLY BRETHREN 1706-1735

Brethren Encyclopedia, Inc. has published (available 1 September 1999) its sixth monograph, *The Beliefs of the Early Brethren 1706-1735* by William G. Willoughby. This study carefully analyzes the original writings of Alexander Mack in the context of the historical setting of the Brethren in Europe in the early eighteenth century.

Willoughby shows how the early brethren reflected not only on the major Protestant beliefs of their time, but also some of the specific emphasis of the Pietists, the Separatists, and the Anabaptists. He then presents the beliefs of the early Brethren as an integrated, cohesive system under the following headings: Basic Teachings of Protestant Christianity, Disagreements with Protestant Christianity, The Pietistic Emphasis, The Anabaptist Emphases, Brethren Emphases, Obedience to Christ in All Things (Discipleship), Political Relationships, and Escatology.

A particularly significant contribution is Willoughby's evaluation of early Brethren beliefs "which evolved in a significantly different age and culture from ours," and, in Chapter VII he attempts to "Discern Their Enduring Value." This chapter will serve as a valuable basis for study and discussion for a long time to come.

Willoughby spent a major part of his professional career as a teacher of philosophy and religion in Bridgewater College (Virginia) and the University of LaVerne (California). He is a graduate of Elizabethtown College, Bethany Theological Seminary, and Boston University (Ph.D. in 1951). He also served pastorates in Oklahoma, Washington, and California. He was the first director of Brethren Colleges Abroad in Marburg (Germany) in 1961-62. He remained in Europe as the Director of Brethren Service in Europe and Northern Africa until 1964. His first book was *Counting the Cost, The Life of Alexander Mack* (Brethren Press, 1979). Later he translated and published *Hochmann von Hochenau 1670-1721* by Heinz Renkewitz (Brethren Encyclopedia Monograph, 1993).

William R. Eberly, Editor,
Brethren Encyclopedia Monographs

NEWS ITEMS**2000 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

June 10 - 14, 2000

2000 General Conference will be held June 10 through 14 at Roxbury Holiness Camp Grounds, located 1/2 mile south of Roxbury, Pennsylvania on Route 997.

Those traveling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) exit number 15, take 997 south to camp grounds.

Those traveling Interstate 81 North or South exit 8 (Scotland Exit), take 997 north to camp grounds.

There is plenty of room for campers and trailers. Please bring sheets and pillow cases. When making reservations please state: Date of arrival, approximate time of arrival, number in party, approximate time of departure. Camp grounds telephone number is 717-532-2208.

Please send reservations to:

Bro. Verling Wolfe
115 Club Rd.
Bethel, PA 19507
717-933-4246

Bro. Justin Beck
480 Schubert Rd.
Bethel, PA 19507
717-933-5944

NOTICE

Please have all business to be included in the printed program for General Conference in my hands by April 24, 2000. Thank you.

Writing Clerk, General Conference
Brother Marlin Marks
Telephone 717-246-9193
Fax (at work) 717-849-2643
e-mail (at work) MarlinD.Marks@Svedala.com

MINISTERIAL LIST CORRECTION

The correct address of Brother Robert Carpenter is: 6150 E 775 S, Peru, IN 46970

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation has changed the date of their set Lovefeast to the third Saturday in April. This year services will

begin on Friday evening, April 14 at 7:30. Services on Saturday will be at 2:00 and 7:00 for Lovefeast. There will also be services on Sunday. Bro. Phil Gish will be with us, the Lord willing.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

We, the Dunkard Brethren Church of Dayton, Virginia wish to thank all who take part in our services.

We are very sorry to have to cancel the Lovefeast service scheduled for the third Saturday in May.

We are a poor little congregation and very much in need of prayer for the sick ones. May the Lord bless you all.

Sister Lizetta Bittinger, Cor.

THANK YOU

This "thank you" is in appreciation for the flowers, cards, calls, gifts and especially the prayers, sent forth on my behalf, as I recuperated from a fall.

The Lord was gracious and merciful. He spared my life and healed my broken bones. For this I give Him the honor and praise. Thanks again and may God bless you.

In His Love,

Brother Frank E. Shaffer

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 2000

May 7 - Walking According To The Spirit - Romans 8:1-11.

1. What makes us "free from the law of sin and death"?
2. How can we be spiritually minded instead of carnally minded?

May 14 - MOTHER'S DAY - I Samuel 1:1-28.

1. Why did Hannah lend Samuel to the Lord?
2. How must we as parents today also lend our children to the Lord?

May 21 - Joint Heirs With Christ - Romans 8:12-25.

1. How can we know we are spiritual sons and daughters of God?
2. How can we be joint-heirs with Christ?

May 28 - The Inseparable Love Of Christ - Romans 8:26-39.

1. How do "all things work together for good to them that love God"?
2. How can we be "more than conquerors"?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 2000

May 7 - Pride - Ps. 10:2-4, Prov. 16:18-19, Luke 18:10-14, I John 2:15-17, Rev. 3:17.

1. Why does God despise pride?
2. How can pride lead to destruction?

May 14 - MOTHER'S DAY-Deut. 27:16, Matt. 15:4-6, Eph. 6:1-3, Col. 3:20.

1. Why does God expect children to honor their parents?
2. What is "the first commandment with promise"?

May 21 - Doctrine - I Tim. 4:6 & 15-16, I Tim. 6:3 & 21, II John 9-11, Jude 3.

1. What is doctrine?
2. How can we abide in "the Doctrine of Christ"?

May 28 - Vanity - Psalm 39, Psalm 62:7-12, Eph. 4:17-20.

1. Why does the Psalmist say, "surely every man is vanity"?
2. What did Paul mean when he said, "that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind"?

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE SURE FOUNDATION

Behold the sure foundation stone,
Which God in Zion lays,
To build our heav'nly hopes upon,
And his eternal praise.

Chosen of God, to sinners dear,
Let saints adore the name;
They trust their whole salvation here,
Nor shall they suffer shame.

The foolish builders, scribe and priest,
Reject it with disdain"
Yet on this rock the church shall rest,
And envy rage in vain.

What tho' the gates of hell withstood,
Yet must this building rise;
'Tis thine own work, almighty God,
And wondrous in our eyes.

-Isaac Watts

ATTRACTIVENESS

The old saying is: "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder". There is certainly much truth in that saying. What is attractive to one person will repel another.

Cultures influence what is attractive to a certain group of people; others will be repelled by that standard of attractiveness. Worldly standards of beauty are varied. The American standard of beauty is influenced by the movies, television, beauty pageants and advertising. In other parts of the world a greater plumpness and robustness are the desired mark of beauty. There are parts of the world where nakedness is accepted with neither lust nor perverseness. Each standard is set by the cultural standards of that society.

The Biblical standard of beauty is at odds with the cultural standards around us. That standard supports a wholesomeness and modesty that is lacking in most cultures. Although the world does not accept the Biblical standard, it does appreciate the beauty that it produces.

The society is always attempting to make everyone who is a part of that society to conform to its standard. Sometimes by oppression or ridicule, those who are not compliant are pressured by their society to comply.

American society is ever pressuring those groups that are different to comply, so they will "fit in" better. Through the schools, media, and other unofficial means the pressure is constant to be

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more like the prevailing society. Whether recent immigrants or those who have been here for generations, the pressure continues to discard those features that are at odds with society's view of rightness.

Newspapers, broadcast media, and books help to make all people alike in a particular society. Still, it is the media that depends upon these non-compliant groups to provide human interest stories that will sell newspapers, magazines, books and gain viewers for special programs. Groups that are "odd" draw a great deal of interest. People want to know how a group is different and why. They may even have a nostalgic interest in the group portrayed; especially if their ancestors had been part of that group.

Governmental agencies promote this sameness. The failure to comply may bring governmental pressure, that may include fines and imprisonment. It is often religious groups that feel the pressure of society working through the government. Doctrines of lifestyle may not meet governmental codes. Family training, including training children to work at an early age, may run counter to the current governmental, psychological or pedagogical theory, which have been drafted into law.

The Church is under pressure to conform to the generally accepted standards of dress and lifestyle of the American society. The pressure to change may be informal. Friends may question whether these practices are really necessary. They may work through the children, who desire to be like their playmates.

The pressure to be more like the social environment may come from within. There is the idea that to be more like the surrounding society will be a greater enticement for people from that society to join the Church. The idea is that it must be made as easy as possible, so some accommodation must be made to attract others. The thought of attracting others to serve God and to reap the joys of Christianity is so great, that the things that vary from the general society do not seem to be very important, so they may be put away. These changes are not made all at once. The changes are made so slowly that they are almost imperceptible. At the end of a period of change there has been such a profound change that the Church is hardly recognizable.

Unfortunately, as this change takes place, the Church not only loses her outward appearance but also her inner qualities that had

motivated these social deviations. What had attracted some from the general population, because of its uniqueness, is now gone. There is no longer a difference between the Church and the world, to which she is supposed to be a witness.

The Church has been placed in the world as witness of God's power working through men changed by the Gospel. If she has not only lost her unique appearance, but also her power to present the Gospel, what has she accomplished, though she may garner large numbers?

Christian attractiveness should go beyond just being odd. It should be Holy Spirit inspired. The Church can hardly be attractive to those of world, when she becomes but a weak imitation of the world. The people of the world already have the world, they need something better.

Christian, are you attractive to the world, in a Spiritual way?

M.C.Cook

SOLDIERS IN SERVICE FOR THE SAVIOUR

"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

In the 1988 Olympics, the world assumed that the United States would be the winners in the 400-meter relay. They simply were the best. The gun cracked and they were off and running. What took place right after the last curve made all the difference in the world. They had been ahead by at least ten meters with no real competition in sight, but then it happened! As the baton was being passed for the last leg of the relay...yes, you got it, the baton was dropped! The result of that dropped baton was that they lost the race.

As I think of that, I have to think of the Church. As the baton is passed through the ages, will we hold it?

It was on November 18 through 20, 1999, that about seventy-three leaders from the Dunkard Brethren gathered together at the Dallas Center Church for a Leadership Conference.

At the end of that gathering there was a "Mission and Vision Statement" drawn up and it consisted of eight statements. This article is being presented due to inspiration from those statements.

What I have done is make the word 'S O L D I E R S', into an acrostic and compared that to these eight statements. It consists of the following:

1. **Strong** homes (Taken from statement #7)
2. **Oneness** (Taken from statement #2)
3. **Literature** (Taken from statement #8)
4. **Devices** of the day (Taken from statement #4)
5. **Individual** spiritual gifts (Taken from statement #5)
6. **Examine** ourselves (Taken from statement 1)
7. **Restoration** (Taken from statement #6)
8. **Seek** God's direction (Taken from statement #3)

First we need **STRONG** Homes.

The seventh statement says, "May fathers, as leaders of their homes, be accountable in teaching and training Biblical values. Our homes, marriages and families must be the model of Christianity to the world."

All we need to do is open our eyes and we can see how Satan is attacking the homes, knowing that if he can bring havoc there it will cause havoc in the Church. God's Word has much to say concerning the home.

In Deuteronomy 6:1-9 God lays out an outline for our homes. The Future of the family depends on Godly fear and our keeping of His Word. (V.2) The Foundation for the family is found in verses 4 and 5. Here we see we need to have that love for God with all our heart, soul and might. The Formula for the family can be found in verses 6 and 7. He tells us we need to teach in our homes, Convincingly. (V.6) If these things are not in our hearts, how can it be convincing? We also need to teach Creatively as well as Consistently. (V.7) Can our children spot our inconsistency? Yes, they surely can. They seem to have a way of detecting those even if they do not seem to detect things we want them to detect.

When we allow the termites to get into the timbers of our homes it does not take very long to see them tumble. When you hear that the divorce rate among 'Christians' is fairly high, we just cry out, Oh Lord, send revival to our homes!

Second we need to have a ONENESS.

The second statement says, "We recognize that we have a great need to grow in our understanding of the Scriptural concept of unity and that we need to diligently and vigorously pursue this unity."

In Psalm 133 we find a beautiful picture of Biblical unity. Here we can see the Contemplation of unity in verse 1. "Behold" which means to view, to consider thoughtfully, to take a good look at. It surely is something to see. We also see in verse 1 the Commendation of unity. "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Not only is it good it is also pleasant. The Comparison of unity is found in verses 3 and 4. "It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore." Unity is likened unto that holy ointment that was prepared in accordance with the divine prescription. (Ex. 30:23-25.) Also it is likened unto the dew of Hermon. Following is a quotation from one who witnessed this scene. "The dew of Hermon descending upon the mountains of Zion, is now quite clear to me. Here as I sat at the foot of Hermon, I understood how the waterdrops which rose from its forest-mantled heights, and out of the highest ravines, which are filled the whole year round with snow, after the sun's rays have attenuated them and moistened the atmosphere with them, descended at evening-time as a heavy dew upon the lower mountains which lie round as its spurs. One ought to have seen Hermon with its white-golden crown glistening aloft in the blue sky, in order to be able rightly to understand the figure. Nowhere in the whole country is so heavy a dew perceptible as in the districts near to Hermon."

True Biblical unity is founded upon truth. We can see all about us what on the surface might seem to be unity, but is only compromise or false unity.

The ecumenical movement certainly is increasing in its pursuit

of recruiting its members. In May 1994, the Christian world was startled by the signing of an ecumenical agreement titled, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium." Pope John Paul has prophesied that there will be unity of faith, and all religions will be worshipping together by the year 2000. He made it clear he would not accept a symbolic papacy without teeth and that Rome would have to hold the primary place among Christians. He also said that a pope should have the authority to make infallible declarations regarding the basic tenets of faith. It is Catholic doctrine that papal infallibility supersedes even Scripture, the very Word of God. When we read Revelation we see that there is going to be a one world religion as well as a one world government. Is that true Biblical unity?

Third is LITERATURE.

The eighth statement says, "We recommend a vigorous effort to produce new printed materials addressing many areas of belief and practice or lifestyle. Tracts and pamphlets can help build convictions in the membership as well as being used in an outreach to the unsaved. These printed materials need to be current in style and attractive in appearance. We need an introduction pamphlet to introduce visitors and other inquirers to our church."

THE POWER OF THE PRINTED PAGE

The Gospel in print is a missionary. It never flinches nor shows cowardice. It is never tempted to compromise. It never tires, never grows discouraged. It travels cheaply and works while others sleep. It never loses its temper.

The Gospel in print is effective. It gains entrance to both the lowly hut and the lofty palace. It can be studied in secret and bring conviction of sin to the reader. The printed page has been instrumental many times in lighting a little flame which led to mighty movements Godward.

The printed page works in a thousand places at one time.

The printed page has permanency, it can be read over and over.

It was Leigh Richmond, who dropped a tract on the pavement in England and prayed that a bad man would pick it up. A bad man did pick it up. He carried the tract with him to prison and he was con-

verted, and later wrote "Pilgrim's Progress", which helped many. He was John Bunyan.

One of Hitler's bodyguards was a man named Kurt Wagner. He adored Hitler and revered him as a god. At the end of the war, with Hitler a suicide in a Berlin bunker, Kurt's faith was shattered in his Fuhrer, and he planned a suicide. Going for a final cup of coffee, he picked up a discarded Gospel tract and read it — first carelessly and then with interest. As a result of reading that tract, he sought out a Godly preacher who led him to Christ. The power of the printed page!

Fourth is DEVICES of the day.

We find in statement four these words, "As the world and the issues of society around the church changes, we believe that a Scriptural Church will seek to understand the present needs of her membership and will provide a sound spiritual response to the issues of every age."

There are many issues we deal with today that our forefathers knew nothing of, due to the exploding technology of our day. How important it is that we preserve faithfulness in the midst of this explosion.

Satan continues to bombard the saints with all kinds of paraphernalia, hoping to wear out the saints. We certainly need to make sure we have on the armor of God. May we continue to bombard heaven's gate from our secret closets, with our prayers that God would give us wisdom and understanding in these dark days of evil.

We are so thankful that years ago the stand was taken against the television. But how close are we getting to it! I have recently heard that there is more violence and immorality being spewed out of the boob tube, than ever before. People would never think of dumping out their garbage cans in the living room, and letting their children feast on that, now would they?

Fifth is INDIVIDUAL Spiritual Gifts.

The fifth statement says, "We encourage our members to be visionary by asking God to give them areas of outreach and ministry utilizing their spiritual gifts. Individuals should seek confirmation through Godly council."

Godly gifts are given by God to glorify God, not to be our god! We must be careful not to allow our gifts to be something on which we base our salvation.

When we take our God-given gift or gifts and use them to serve the body of Christ, it is most beautiful. How important it is that the hand does not say to the foot, I have no need of you. Instead, each part must work in harmony.

Encouragement is given to seek confirmation through Godly council due to the fact that we can decide, as an individual, to allow our emotions to take the lead and actually bring dishonor to the rest of the body. Yes, we have individual gifts but need to remember our relationship with the body.

Sixth is EXAMINE Ourselves.

The first statement says, "To implement our vision we first must examine ourselves, confess and repent of any possible sin and sinful attitudes."

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14.

As a soldier in service for the Saviour, am I hindering the victory that can be had, due to hidden sin? Remember Achan and what his sin did to the whole group. If we are marching onward toward Zion, then we must examine ourselves to see if we are truly in the faith.

How many times have you read God's Word and His Spirit convicted you? You ended up gritting your teeth? Conviction came, the Sword of God pricked your heart, and finally after much battle you submitted to the conviction.

We need to humble ourselves, seek His face, pray, and turn from our wicked way. This excludes no one of the body, elder, minister, deacon, laymember, all alike.

Seventh is RESTORATION.

The sixth statement says, "We implore members, individually and collectively, to restore damaged relationships. In addition, we should restore, where possible, alienated members. Finally, we

encourage members to restore a proper understanding of church authority.”

In a lighthouse magazine that I receive, there is always a list titled, “Doomsday List”. What it consists of is a list of lighthouses that are in danger of being lost. They need to be restored or they will be destroyed. As of November 13, 1999, the Cape Hatteras Light has been relit in its new location and no longer is on that doomsday list. This lighthouse was in danger of falling into the sea due to the erosion of the shore. A 4,800 ton, 198 foot tall structure being moved 2,900 feet certainly was not a small feat. It required much labor and cost. However, it was quite a joyous occasion as hundreds of people gathered there and witnessed that relighting of this 129 year old lighthouse, that has been restored.

Should not this be a lesson to us, how much more important it is to see the restoration of souls! When we see individual lighthouses ready to be devoured by the angry sea of despair and discouragement, should we not care?

Restoration involves, Concern, Cause, Commitment, Compassion, Cooperation and yes, even Cost. May we seek God’s help in these areas.

Eighth is **SEEK** God’s Direction.

The third statement says, “As we seek God’s direction for the future, we encourage all to be respectful of our past and the traditions and customs that have developed in our family of believers.”

We need to be grateful for those who plowed the way and have established standards because of their concern for the future of the church.

At the Leadership meeting as we listed scriptures on separation as well as on reaching out, we saw how important it is that we have both.

It is a sad commentary for the church when, as an individual, we decide to just ignore a standard we dislike. The teaching that individualism supersedes the whole body, is dangerous. A simple illustration of this could be when our standard was not to wear the wrist watch, but wear it anyway, possibly with the intention that maybe that will change it. Well, that standard has been changed, but is it

not using rebellion rather than the proper appeal?

Is all change wrong? Certainly not, we would be quite foolish to think so. But as the church continues toward that mark might we ever seek God's direction, and as the baton is passed may we not drop it!

As Soldiers in Service for the Saviour may we desire to please our Captain!

A Small Servant in His Service,
Brother Ray Stuber

MEDITATIONS OF MY HEART

Dear Sisters in Christ,

We read in Proverbs 31 about being a virtuous woman, a diligent and efficient worker, able to accomplish a great deal around the home. It seems if we can shop, cook, clean, sew, garden, and care for the needs of our husband and children, then maybe we are coming close to being that ideal "virtuous woman." However, it's easy to just skim over some very important verses right near the beginning of the lesson, maybe the most important verses in the whole section.

"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her..." Pro. 31:11. Strong's Concordance has the meaning of heart as "the heart, also used very widely for the feelings, the will, and even the intellect; likewise the center of anything." Trust, according to Strong's means, "to hie for refuge, figuratively to trust, be confident, or sure." Maybe we need to examine our lives to see if the hearts of our husbands can trust in us. Can they have confidence in us? Can they come to us for refuge? Can we be trusted to do them good and not evil, as we read in verse 12?

This trust covers a very wide area. Ideally, there should be no areas of our lives in which our husbands cannot trust us. To be trusted, we have to be open, honest, and submissive toward our husbands. It is possible to find ourselves justifying actions toward our husband that we may not consider wrong, but are those actions doing him good?

As sisters, we can be a support for each other as we discuss,

counsel, and pray about our marriages. Yet there are times when we can easily betray the trust of our husbands by discussing things that should never go out of our homes. We can gossip about our husbands just as easily as about anybody else. If we tend to tell everyone we meet about the latest mistake our husband made, or the stupid thing he said, or the big fight we just had, we may be betraying his trust. There is a time for asking for counsel or support from a wiser sister, but we must be very careful that it is not just a chance to complain. This is such an easy sin to fall into. We become involved in our discussion and before we know it we have said more than we meant to. We need to pray for guidance and for a guard over our mouths, that we will not be tempted into talking about private areas of our marriages to the point of doing our husbands evil instead of good.

Another area in which we must be careful is the temptation to hide things from our husbands. Just like little children who learn to hide their disobedience, some wives hide their actions from their husbands. Dear sisters, how can our husbands trust us if we do things in secret that we know they would not like us to do? How hurtful it must be to them when they find out we have deliberately betrayed their desires or instructions. How it must break that bond of trust!

Many years ago a sister told me about a new item she had bought that day. Because her husband was rather stingy and very strict with how she spent "his" money, she knew he would be angry about her new purchase. Rather than submitting to his will, she bought the item and then hid it in the trunk of her car for a few days, hoping to be able to sneak it in the house later, when he was done questioning her about her spending. The item she bought was perfectly acceptable, but her actions were not.

We can not consider ourselves submissive or trustworthy wives if we know our husbands would not approve of a purchase, an action, or an activity that we involve ourselves or our children in. Rather we have set our wills above his, (part of the definition of "heart" was "the will"), and betrayed his trust in us.

Something we may fail to consider is the fact that we are training our daughters by our everyday actions as much as by our words. If they see us ignore the desires of our husbands' heart and will, if

they hear us publicly put down his opinions or jest about his feelings, we are teaching them to do their husbands evil rather than good.

Another area in which we should be able to be trusted does have to do with the idea of being an efficient worker. Notice the last word in verse 11 is "spoil". This brings to mind the idea of war, and the spoils brought home after a battle is won. If we take the teaching about the virtuous woman as a whole, it seems to be telling us that because of the hard and diligent work of a wife, the husband has no need of spoil. In other words, he has no need to bring home goodies from battle, because his wife is working hard to meet his needs at home. He can trust that her hands are not idle, but that she is striving to care for him and her family. Can our husbands trust us to be as this virtuous woman, willing to work hard for the benefit of the family?

"Virtuous" has a variety of meanings, one of which is strength. A virtuous woman is a woman of strength, but she dare not be dependent on her own strength, for God has said "Except the Lord build the house, thy labor in vain who built it..." (Ps. 127:1) When the desires of our hearts are to be virtuous women in whom our husbands can trust in every way, then God will strengthen us to do His will.

May we all long to be wives of excellence, willing to do our husbands good and not evil, to be a place of refuge in whom they may safely trust.

For Him,
Sister Arlene Stamy
McClave, CO

ATTITUDES DURING PERSECUTION

Acts 5:17-42

Well, guess what? The disciples were thrown into prison again. The High Priest and the Sadducees were filled with jealousy and resentment. But did the disciples **stay** in prison? **No!** Not this time!

The angel of the Lord came in the night and opened the prison doors and escorted them out! And not only that, but the angel gave

them specific instructions to **go**, **stand**, and **speak** in the Temple to the people! Whew! What would you do if that happened to you?!? It would have been very tempting for the disciples to either flee to another city (or into the country), or go into hiding. But they went to the Temple very early in the morning and taught whoever would listen.

The High Priests were not up on the very latest. They sent for the disciples from prison. But the guards came back empty-handed. The gates were all locked, the guards were all in their positions, but no one was in the cells! Finally, someone came and told them that the men they were seeking were preaching in the Temple. So they gave orders, and “quietly” arrested them, and conducted a trial.

Peter gave a shorter sermon to them than he did in Acts 4. He was very direct and to the point. After all, he had already preached the message of this new Gospel to them only a short time before.

Their first reaction was to have the disciples executed. Gamaliel, who had a very high reputation among the people, stood up and gave a little counsel. His very wise advice was that for this time and occasion, they should let the disciples go, and see what would happen. Gamaliel advised that if their work was of God, no one could overthrow it. But if it was of men, it would soon come to nothing. That is good advice for us today. Carefully observe the fruits of a person or ministry about which you have questions. Wait and observe.

Amazingly, probably in most part due to their respect for Gamaliel, they took his advice. They had the disciples beaten, and let them go, after commanding them NOT to speak anymore in the Name of Jesus.

Note the reaction of the disciples. They rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the Name of Jesus! That is a good lesson for us to learn. “It will be worth it all when we see Jesus!”—the song says, and indeed, it is true!

Summary Thought . . . Keep a correct attitude when undergoing persecution and oppression for the sake of the Name of the Savior.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM of the DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

to be held at the

Brethren In Christ Holiness Camp, Roxbury, Pennsylvania

June 10 - 14, 2000

Preaching Program

Sat. A.M. Leadership Meeting (Deacons, Ministers & Elders) 10:00-11:30.

Time	Speaker	Subject	Text
Sat. P.M.	Kenneth Wilkerson		
Sat. P.M.	Dennis Myers	Your Body, His Temple	I Cor. 6:19-20
Sat. Eve.	Thomas St. John		
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School	Peter Escapes From Prison (Children only)	Acts 12:1-19
Sun. A.M.	H. Edward Johnson	The Foundation	I Cor. 3:10
Sun. A.M.	Harley Flory	Behold It Was Hid In His Tent	Joshua 7:22
Sun. P.M.	David Skiles	How Is Your Vision?	Prov. 29:18
Sun. P.M.	Dennis St. John	Great Expectations	Phil. 1:1-11
Sun. Eve.	Gordon Jamison	Chasing Rainbows	Psalm 39
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study-Adults:	(Young People's Message)	Eph. 1:1-23
	Children:	Accepted in the Beloved	Acts 27:1-44
Mon. A.M.	Mark Andrews	Shipwrecked	
Mon. P.M.	James Eberly		
Mon. P.M.	David Aungst		
Mon. Eve.	Robert Carpenter		
Mon. Eve.	(To Be Supplied)		
Tues. A.M.	Bible Study-Adults:		
	Children:		
Tues. A.M.	Dean Shaffer	A New Walk	Eph. 4:17-32
Tues. P.M.	Paul Skiles	Forgiving Our Brother	Gen. 45:17-32
Tues. Eve.	Henry Walker	True & False Wisdom	James 3:13-18
		Youth Activities Committee-Missionary Program	
		Missionary Sermon: The Church Triumphant	Matt. 28:16-20

TODAY, ASK GOD TO REMOVE EVERY FALSE TRUST

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9.

MANY OF US HAVE BECOME EXTREMELY SKILLFUL in arranging our lives so as to admit the truth of Christianity without being embarrassed by its implications.

We arrange things so that we can get on well enough without divine aid, while at the same time ostensibly seeking it! We boast in the Lord but watch carefully that we never get caught depending on Him!

To many, Christ is little more than an idea, or at best an ideal: He is not a fact! They talk as if He were real and act as if He were not.

We can prove our faith by our committal to it - and in no other way!

Any belief that does not command the one who holds it is not a real belief: it is a pseudo belief only. And it might shock some of us profoundly if we were brought suddenly face to face with our beliefs and forced to test them in the fires of practical living!

What we need very badly these days is a company of Christians who are prepared to trust God as completely now as they must do at the last day. For each of us the time is surely coming when we shall have nothing but God!

Today is the best time to invite God to remove every false trust, to disengage our hearts from all secret hiding places, and to bring us out into the open where we can discover for ourselves whether we actually trust Him. This is a harsh cure, but it is a sure one!

A. W. Tozer

Selected by Sister Terry Scofield

KENYA KNOTES

All the way my Savior leads me;
What have I to ask besides?
Can I doubt his tender mercy,

Who thro' life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

In October 1999, as Merle and I were going to Ocean Pines for a few days to get alone and seek God's direction on some very important decisions in our life, this song was playing and it kept going over and over in my mind. "For I know whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth ALL things well." I just had to claim the promise.

It has been a very stressful year for us. Among the many targets, there were also triumphs. Four of our children accepted the Lord and were baptized. With all the happening in our life the past year I could probably write a book. I could write another one this year, being in Africa.

On March 7, we made our way to the Harrisburg Airport, with tons of luggage, family and friends. It was only a small commuter plane to Detroit. They had to put people on another plane because of all the weight. Then they were not going to let us go, because we did not have return tickets. The agent had to call several places before everything was confirmed.

We flew from Detroit to Amsterdam in eight and one half hours. We had a four hour layover. Then another eight-hour flight to Nairobi. There we went through customs like a breeze and met Paul and Mary Stump. We slept in Nairobi that evening and headed for the mission in the morning.

It was a beautiful drive across the country, lots of rolling hills. We saw gazelle, monkeys, zebras, and lots of cattle, donkeys, goats and sheep. We made a stop about two and a half hours into our journey, where the Mennonites run a school and publish Christian literature. This is known as the Lamp and Light Mission.

We arrived at our mission an hour later than we expected, due to some van trouble. We had an invitation to one of the sisters' homes. There we were served two kinds of stew. The one was probably goat and the other liver. We also had boiled potatoes, noodles and chapati. It was real good. We ate by kerosene light.

We were glad to have Paul and Mary here for over a week. During that time, we were taught how to wash by hand, make good use of every drop of water, how to boil and purify it for drinking, how to make chapati, where to buy vegetables and many more things. We had good teachers.

The weather here is so beautiful. It's normally in the 70-80s every day with no humidity. We are just coming into the rainy season. We usually receive a good shower every afternoon. We really need the rain, but I'm not looking forward to rain every day all day long.

The services were held under the trees on benches. Children's Sunday School is on the porch. Easter Sunday was the first we had services in the tent. It was a wonderful service. Everyone was so happy and put their whole heart into it. The first Sunday attendance was 82. Now it is up to 117, with about 50 children attending Sunday School.

Please pray for the spiritual needs of this congregation. Pray that the Lord's will be done and all be done to bring glory to God. These people are so special, we love them dearly.

Merle is busy with counseling, water project meetings, transporting, preaching, teaching and so forth. Chad or Derrick accompany him, it's a good idea to have a witness and it's a good learning experience for them.

The children are adjusting really well and making lots of friends. They are kept busy with their school work and errands around the compound.

Keep us in your prayers as there are many needs here.

In His Love,
Sister Cindy Sweitzer

JUST ANOTHER DAY?

Psalms 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

We made it through another day, another time line into the year 2000. Has anything really changed? Satan is still Satan and God is

still our Creator and Heavenly Father. Jesus is still God's Son waiting patiently for everyone to accept Him as their personal Savior. The Holy Spirit is still talking to our hearts in a still, small voice, trying to lead each one of us into salvation.

Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

Some things do change over time. Hebrews 3:15, "While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation."

In the words of Jesus, Matthew 19:8, "He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives; but from the beginning it was not so." Because of the hardness of our hearts more things are allowed. From the beginning it was not so to allow a break up of any relationship.

A walk with Jesus is based on our relationships with everyone around us. Here is a radio clip taken from our local Christian radio station:

"In every war there are Missing in Action and POW's. The Spiritual war we are involved in is no different. A walk with God can be glorious, but it also makes us targets for the enemy's attacks. So what is our duty when a fellow soldier falls or is trapped behind enemy lines? That's when they need us most. And in most armies the mission is clear: go in and rescue the troops in danger. But it's been said that Christians are the only army that shoots its wounded. Instead, we must not give up on those missing in action or those wounded either by their own actions or actions of others. The worst thing we can do is attack them or give up on them. Because it's been proven many times that even those who deserted usually do return to the ranks, but often though they are scarred they eventually prove to have more wisdom, valor, and honor than before they left. Don't shoot the wounded!" An excerpt from KJIL.

If we feel out of place, we are just like Satan and want to make others to feel out of place, too. If I did something wrong I surely can find something you did worse. Finding fault is Satan's favorite pastime. Do you know what? God is love. Satan is envy, distrust, fear, and hate. Jesus only has to look at our hearts and we know what our sins are. Satan has fun pointing them out and making a big deal

out of every one.

God loves each one of us so much because He made each one of us. In the beginning God created Adam and Eve. With love, He created them with a mind to choose. Even after the fall of mankind because of the choice to sin, God loves us and promises to make a way of escape, a way for our sins to be covered and washed away. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to become man, born of a virgin, in flesh and blood. Jesus lived and was tempted in all ways as we are and sinned not. God loved us so much that He allowed men to crucify His only Son on the cross for your sins and mine. On the cross Jesus gave His life for our sins. A gift of love for you and me. Jesus died and arose again after three days to show He is the Son of God and a victor over sin and death. Praise God!

God is love, and by choice we can accept Jesus as our Savior and share His love with everyone around us.

I John 4

1. Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.
2. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:
3. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.
4. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.
5. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.
6. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.
7. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
8. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

9. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

10. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

12. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he is us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

14. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

15. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

17. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

19. We love him, because he first loved us.

20. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21. And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Where there is no love there is fear. I am glad that perfect love casteth out fear. What keeps a fellowship close and growing in our Lord Jesus Christ? Love!

Everyone is looking for the love of Jesus and whose job is it to give it? Before we can show the love of Jesus we need to know God. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." To

understand the grace of God is to know God and pass along the love He first showed us.

In verse 20 we read, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" Many things cross my mind as I read that verse, for we can see our brother or sister with all their faults, yet we still need to show them love. God looks at each of us and sees all we have done and has even written it in a book. Yet God has love toward each of us with patience that is beyond our imagination, waiting for each of us to accept the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

As we look at our brother or sister, we can so easily see all their faults. Where is the love of Jesus in our lives? We are told to teach, correct, and encourage all those around us with all patience.

The art, skill, or tact of offering encouragement is a skill that is fast becoming a lost art. This is something that is teachable. How high on the list is the need to offer or teach encouragement? This is not giving someone a big head, but offering timely needed encouragement in every walk of life. This is one area that the Holy Spirit is ready and willing to help each one of us to offer encouragement, if only we would put aside self and follow God's will.

It takes some effort to find fault and pass judgment. The same is true with offering encouragement. Each person is different, and it takes some effort to see what can be done or said to offer encouragement, seventy times seven if need be. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

God is love, and from God comes the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

God is love, and to know God is to pass His love along to others.

Let us be known as a fellowship that goes in and rescues the wounded.

Brother Roy Litfin

CHILDREN'S PAGE**HONOR THY MOTHER**

Eph. 6:2

"What can we give Mother for Mother's Day?" asked Ruth as she helped her sister, Delores, with the supper dishes.

"I haven't been able to think of anything special, but it would be nice to do something different this year," answered Delores.

"Why not make a card and list the special things she does for us and thank her. We could all sign our name to the card," suggested their brother, Paul, who happened to hear their conversation as he came into the kitchen for a drink of water.

"I just thought of something! Mother likes poetry. Let's make up a poem for her and frame it. She can hang it in her bedroom. We can work on it together, tonight, as Mother went over to Aunt Lois' to help her quilt for a few hours," said Ruth.

They agreed and gathered around the kitchen table with pencil and paper and wrote the following poem. Then each one slipped a note choosing a job that they promised to help their mother do in the coming year.

WHAT DOES YOUR MOTHER DO FOR YOU?

She greets you with a loving smile,

Each morning when you wake.

The kitchen is her workshop, while

She fixes you good things to eat.

She wants her children to be healthy and strong,

And so she works the whole day long.

There's washing and ironing and beds to make,

Dishes to wash and a cake to bake.

Furniture to dust and rugs to sweep,

Floors to mop, now, the room looks neat.

She sends you to bed to get your rest,

Knowing tomorrow will be a test.

She wants you to do your best in school

And learn to live by the golden rule.
She sews and mends your clothes so neat,
She dresses you warmly from head to feet.
She settles your squabbles and dries your tears,
She hushes your cries and calms your fears.
When you are ill, there's just no doubt,
That with her care you'll soon be about.
She teaches you, your Bible to read,
You'll learn God's will, church doctrine and creed.
Honor the Sabbath and fear the Lord
Now love and obey God's Holy Word!

On Mother's Day when the children presented their gift, their mother was very pleased. It does not need to be a costly gift, but Mothers are pleased when children are willing to do simple little everyday tasks that make household work run smoothly. Mother's appreciate it when their children honor her and love and obey her.

What Can You Do For Mother?

Sister Maxine Surbey

WALKING CIRCUMSPECTLY

"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15-16.

The word "circumspectly" is not one that we use in our everyday conversations. It has three possible meanings; "cautious, careful or attentive." We believe all three are needed in our daily walk with the Lord.

First of all the Apostle Paul warns us that we are not to walk as fools. The Bible gives us several examples of foolish actions and thoughts. The ultimate is found in Psalm 14:1, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...". In Luke 12 we have the parable of the rich man who determined to lay up his worldly possessions without providing for eternal needs. In verse 20 of this chapter we read,

"But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

The Apostle Paul tells us to walk as (the) wise. We can not walk in our own wisdom. In Romans 1:22 we read, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." In Psalm 111:10 we find, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:..."

Next the Apostle Paul admonishes us that we are to redeem the time. To redeem something is to buy it back. The ultimate redemption of course is Christ's shed blood on Calvary's cross that "bought us back" from the fall of mankind in the Garden.

The reason we are to redeem the time is because the days are evil. While the Apostle Paul was addressing the people who lived in the same era as he did, the Word of God is Truth for all ages. Until God brings all things to completion His arch rival, Satan, will attempt to rule the hearts, minds and actions of mankind. Unfortunately, he has been very successful over the millenniums and it is obvious that he rules much of the world's population today.

Therefore, the Church must be very cautious. A cautious person does not jump into a matter quickly but takes time to evaluate the situation and tries to find the best solution to the matter at hand.

It seems all too often leadership in a church follows the popular trend without taking the time to determine if it is Scriptural. Then the majority of the members follow as sheep led to the slaughter. Why is it that when a church tradition is being examined often the advice given is that we do not all have to be exactly alike? Yet when a new trend is introduced, those who suggest that it might be dangerous are often regarded as unwilling to follow the advice of those in authority?

We, of the Church, must also be very careful. It is very easy to become cliques in place of being one in Christ. Perhaps even more dangerous is becoming an individualist who believes they are the only one in the church who has a correct understanding of the Bible. The Apostle Paul ran into two problems in the first century church that we believe are alive and well today. The first was the Judaizers or true legalists who desired to make Gentiles fall into line with all of the Old Testament requirements. The second group was just the

opposite. They were known as antinomians or libertines. They taught that a righteous life had nothing to do with salvation. Does this sound familiar? Though we may not have those who desire to make Gentiles subservient to Old Testament rules and regulations (not the moral laws of God), we must be careful that we do not make our church rules a part of salvation.

Last of all we must be attentive as the Church. There is much deception today. Books are written that claim to "prove the Bible" then insist that some of it is merely myth or legend! Men may be able to discover some things by digging into the past but most of their reasoning is merely the wisdom of men. We must remember that God's Word is truth no matter what men may say! As we read in Romans 3:4, "...yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;..."

May it be our hearts' desire to walk circumspectly, to walk together and to walk in the Way of the Lord.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

SPIRITUAL SLUMBER

Rom. 11:8, "(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day."

Of course this passage is referring to Israel, but how many of us are asleep as well? What are we missing? I believe it may be the "present truth" that we cannot see or hear.

II Peter 1:12, "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth."

What is the present truth? I believe it may be part of our daily bread. It is that truth that God reveals to you today. It is a common problem that when we receive a revelation of truth from scripture that we stop looking for the next revelation. We build a "camp" around that truth. We believe we have God figured out. We go to sleep. We stop growing. Our slumber may continue for many years.

This happens frequently after baptism but might happen any time we stop looking for the lesson God has for us now. This is not God's plan. We must be patient, waiting on the Lord, being diligent not to sleep.

Isa. 28:9-10, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

Heb. 5:11-6:3, "Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit."

Why are we dull of hearing? Because we think we know all God has to tell us and we are asleep. What is wrong with sleeping? We can not discern both good and evil. Why don't we wake up? Because we might have to change something in our life or do something God wants us to do that does not seem pleasant. God has big plans for us but we need to move on to real spiritual food. Ministers and teachers need to be able to provide both milk and meat to those in their charge. We cannot lay bricks if all we know is mud pies. We cannot build cathedrals if all we know is bricks. We cannot build up the body of Christ if all we know is cathedrals. There is always something next. Do not sleep now. You will miss something great.

Acts 14:22, "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

Rom. 5:3-4, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:"

Sometimes God allows trials, tribulations, and temptations to enter our lives. If we are awake they serve as warning flags to times of growth. If we are asleep, they serve as wake up calls to truth. When difficulties enter our life we can either wake up and discern good from evil and grow in the Lord or sleep and give in to temptation and increase the distance from where God would have us to be.

How do we wake up? Pray and read your Bible every day with a fervent desire to know the present truth. Pray and read the Bible with your family, searching for the next precept. Pray and fast. Gather together with the saints, praising God, hungering for truth and heeding the exhortations of our brothers. Get more oil and keep your light shining. Submit your will to God and do His will.

Col. 1:28, "...warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:"

Let us hear our brother's wake up call. Let us warn our brother not to sleep. Let us strive together for perfection in Christ.

God's peace,
Brother Tim Scofield

NEWS ITEM

2000 GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 10-14, 2000

2000 General Conference will be held June 10 through 14 at Roxbury Holiness Camp Grounds, located 1/2 mile south of Roxbury, Pennsylvania on Route 997.

Those traveling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I 76) exit number 15, take 997 south to camp grounds.

Those traveling Interstate 81 North or South exit 8 (Scotland Exit), take 997 north to camp grounds.

There is plenty of room for campers and trailers. Please bring sheets and pillow cases. When making reservations please state:

Date of arrival, approximate time of arrival, number in party, approximate time of departure. Camp grounds telephone number is 717-532-2208.

Please send reservations to:

Bro. Verling Wolfe
115 Club Rd.
Bethel, PA 19507
717-933-4246

Bro. Justin Beck
480 Schubert Rd.
Bethel, PA 19507
717-933-5944

HART, MICHIGAN

The Hart Congregation plans a July Revival. The dates are July 14 through 23. Bro. Dennis Myers from Dallas Center, will be the speaker.

Also, the Lord willing, we plan to have a special service of dedicating our church to the Lord. We are indeed thankful to have a lovely, modern church in which to worship the Lord. Our heartfelt thanks once again to one and all who, earnestly, contributed time, talent, and financial aid to the work of the Lord. May God richly bless each one.

The Dedication service will be on July 23. Lovefeast service on July 22. Everyone welcome. Come praying, that souls may be touched, and revived once again.

Sister Anna Powell, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 2000

June 4 - Paul's Sorrow For His Kinsmen - Romans 9:1-13.

1. For whom did Christ come?
2. What did Paul mean when he said, "They are not all Israel, which are of Israel"?

June 11 - Vessels of Mercy, Vessels of Wrath - Romans 9:14-24.

1. What are "the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction"?
2. What are "the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory"?

June 18 - FATHER'S DAY - Matt. 1:18-25, 2:13-15, 19-23.

1. Why did the angel give Joseph the responsibility of naming the child?
2. Why was Joseph so obedient to what he saw and heard in his dreams?

June 25 - The Sovereign Nature of God's Grace - Romans 9:25-33.

1. How did the Gentiles attain to righteousness?
2. Who is the stumbling stone and rock of offense?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 2000

June 4 - Builders - Neh. 4:1-23, I Cor. 3:10-14.

1. Why were Nehemiah and his people successful in the building of the wall around Jerusalem?
2. What is the foundation upon which we must build today?

June 11 - Unity - Eph. 4:1-32.

1. What is "the unity of the spirit"?
2. What is "the unity of the Faith"?

June 18 - FATHER'S DAY - Deut. 5:16, Job 1:1-5, Prov. 30:11-12,&17, II Tim. 3:2-4.

1. Why should we honour our father and mother?
2. How does our relationship with our earthly father affect our relationship with our Heavenly Father?

June 25 - TEMPERANCE - Dan. 1:1-21, Luke 1:15.

1. How did Daniel practice temperance in his life?
2. How was temperance a part of the life of John the Baptist?

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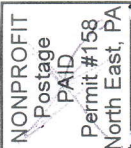
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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

UNITING LOVE

Blest be the dear uniting love
That will not let us part;
Our bodies may far off remove,
We still are one in heart.

Joined in one spirit to our Head,
Where He appoints we go;
And still in Jesus' footsteps tread,
And do His work below.

O let us ever walk in Him,
And nothing know beside,
Nothing desire, nothing esteem,
But Jesus crucified!

Partakers of the Saviour's grace,
The same in mind and heart,
Nor joy, nor grief, nor time, nor place,
Nor life, nor death, can part.

-Charles Wesley

PAUL BEFORE FELIX

The Apostle Paul was persecuted by the Jewish leaders. As long as he had been one of them, leading in the persecution of the new Christian Church, they had been very pleased to be associated with him. He was a Pharisee of the Pharisees. He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. After he had been converted at Damascus and began to preach that Jesus was the Christ, they were determined to be rid of him. Paul was the focus of their attempts to quiet him. He preached Christ; they wanted him removed.

Paul lists the various troubles he had gone through in spreading the Gospel throughout the Mediterranean world in II Corinthians 11. The Jews had tried to destroy Paul when he was at Jerusalem. He had been rescued by the Roman soldiers. While he was under Roman custody, it was necessary for him to appear before the Roman governor. The Jews had made serious accusations against Paul that would lead to his death at the hands of the Romans if proved. When he was first tried, Felix was the reigning governor.

While making his defense before Felix, Paul not only recounted the facts in his case, but also spoke to Felix concerning his own great Spiritual needs. Paul preached to Felix about righteousness, temperance and judgment. The Gospel of Christ that Paul preached that day remains the great proclamation of the Church today.

When he spoke of righteousness, he spoke of the righteousness of Christ and the righteousness that He could give to unrighteous men.

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JUNE 2000

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teous men. Here Paul proclaimed the plan of salvation. He spoke of the love of God toward sinful men, which would have included Felix. That love motivated God to send His Only Begotten Son to Earth as a virgin-born babe. Jesus lived a sinless life that would qualify as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the human family upon the cross of Calvary. That transaction when accepted by sinful man would bring righteousness in the place of that man's natural unrighteousness. There was no fellowship possible with God without accepting the work of His Son. Those who accept this offer and comply with its terms become the sons and daughters of God. They became the heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. Paul would have made clear to Felix that he was in need of such a Saviour. Paul could tell Felix of his own experience and invite Felix to enjoy the same relationship.

Paul spoke to Felix not only of the need of being born again, but also of the believer's lifestyle. He reasoned with him of temperance. Temperance is not only moderation in the things that are good and the abstinence from the things that are bad. Temperance is self control. Natural man lacks self control. The Christian has the help of the Holy Spirit within to bring his appetites and attitudes in line with God's will. A child of God can not enjoy all the pleasures offered by the world around him. He needs self control. There needs to be frugality, modesty and discreteness in the Christian's life. The Christian's life must be distinguishable from the lives of those who serve themselves, Satan and sin. For a person of Felix' position this would be difficult. This is why Christians are admonished to avoid certain professions and vocations, since they tend to promote a lifestyle that is contrary to a good Christian witness.

Paul also spoke to Felix of the future. He reminded him that there was a day of judgment coming. All have to face the righteous judge. The love of God will be supplanted by the wrath of God at that time. The opportunity for choosing the Son will be over and a frightful future will be in store for those who have spurned God's Gracious offer.

Paul had preached to Felix what preachers in our own time should be proclaiming to their hearers. Felix had been offered the

relationship of becoming a son of God. He had been counseled to live a life consistent with God's holy will. He had been warned of a Christless future. What choice would he make?

He chose to defer his choice until some more convenient season. He, like many since, thought that life would continue and there would be other opportunities to make that fateful choice. His lack of choice really was a choice to reject the offer of God. We do not read that he ever made that choice at a future time.

Many have decided to wait until a more convenient season. Unfortunately that convenient season never came for them. Either they met with a personal disaster or they continued to excuse themselves from that choice. It is easy to postpone a decision that is so life changing and revolutionary. It is easy to wait until a more convenient time. Alas, there is no more convenient time than right now.

M.C.Cook

HUMILITY

I must confess that over the years the biggest struggle I have had as a Christian is humility. Time and time again, the Holy Spirit has come to me through that still small voice saying, "You should not have said that." "Watch your tone of voice." "You owe an apology." "I can't use you if you are going to lift up yourself rather than me."

So, I pray Lord help me. Yet I believe that I am not alone, for we must all in one form or another, deal with self.

God's Word says, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5. The Greek word for meek is "praus" (pronounced prah-ooce') and has the meaning of being mild, gentle, and humble.

The word "blessed" in this verse means more than just simply happy. It means rather, that the meek are supremely blest; fortunate, well off, privileged, and at peace.

How different this is from the world's teaching. It is not taught in the schools of men, or their self help programs that promote self

pride and self worth. Brethren, if you truly want peace, satisfaction, and joy, and carry the title Christian, then you must crucify the very self the world would promote, and look "...unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;..." Hebrews 12:2. Who also instructs us to "...learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart:..." Matthew 11:29. Did you ever notice the reason Christ gave for learning of Him? Did he say, "Lean on me because of my intelligence, and because I have performed miracles and have the world at my fingertips?" No. He said, "Lean on Me because I am meek and lowly".

I once heard a man describe humility and its blessings. He said, "I used to think God's blessings were on a shelf one above another, and the higher I climbed and the greater I became, the more I would receive, but now I see God's blessings are in place on a shelf one beneath another, and the lower I stoop the more I receive." We must not think of ourselves as being humble, a man who is flattering himself that he is humble is self deceived. It consists not in thinking meanly of ourselves, but in not thinking of ourselves at all, for if a man speaks of his humility just that fast it is gone.

God's Word tells us that "...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." James 4:6. And that, "...Whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Luke 14:11. God nowhere speaks of pride except in terms of condemnation and reproach, but rather encourages us to have a childlike spirit. When the disciples wanted to know who was the greatest, Jesus set a little child in their midst, saying, "...Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest..." Matthew 18:1-4. To try to approach a Holy, sin-hating, God without humility would be like trying to see without eyes, and hear without ears. Let us not be deceived into thinking God will simply overlook pride. Remember God resisteth the proud.

Humility, if present or absent, manifests itself through our actions, character, and dress. "A proud look" springs not from a humble heart. A haughty bearing and pompous display in clothing are never the result of humility in the heart. Humble people are recognized by their unassuming manners. Simplicity marks both their appearance and their daily habits. Boastfulness is absent from their

speech.

Humility is a treasure of great value for, "By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life." Proverbs 22:4. We should avoid an assumed humility, or "will worship" as Paul calls it. Colossians 2:18, 23. Humility is from the inside out, not from the outside in.

Finally humility will affect how you treat others. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:1-3. It is impossible to have true Godly love, without humility.

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." I Corinthians 13:4-7.

A tall order to be sure, impossible for carnal man alone, but made possible with the help of the Holy Spirit. How thankful we should be for that.

Brother Stephen G. Aldinger

WHAT INSCRIPTION WOULD DESCRIBE YOUR QUALITY OF CHARACTER?

"The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them." Proverbs 11:3. Anyone who rises to a high stature in life as a leader must have an inscription associated with their name. If we would paint a portrait of a leader, what would be the "primary colors"? What would be the primary foundational qualities an effective leader would need to succeed?

The most important leadership qualities are: character, perspective, integrity, and people skills using Jesus as our example. When these "primary colors" are used together, then and only then can

effective leadership take place. If any one of these "primary colors" is missing, the leadership effectiveness is decreased. If character is missing from the leadership mix, there is a crack in the foundation of the person.

In ancient history merchants sold pottery with the inscription inside: "Sine Cerus". It means "without wax". Unscrupulous merchants would rub beeswax into the cracks of their broken pottery to sell to unsuspecting customers. However, honest merchants would advertise their pottery as "without wax" inviting customers to inspect their merchandise closely for imperfections.

In the English language we continue to use the Latin words, "Sine Cerus", to refer to people who are honest, whose lives we can inspect and find no pretense. This word we now use is "Sincere". "Better is the poor that walk in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool." Proverbs 19:1.

To Be Continued
Brother Marion Brooks

KENYA KNOTES

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus,

I bring you Christian greetings from a beautiful Kenya. I know the throne of God has been besieged with prayers on our behalf and I thank the Lord that you have been faithful in keeping us in your prayers.

It was like a homecoming to me to come back to Kenya and see all the dear people here. I didn't realize when I was here one year ago that I would be coming back to this country. The Lord works in mysterious ways to get us in His will. To come for a year seems like a long time to us but the time is flying and I know we will miss this place when we are to go home. If He wants us to stay longer I know He will let us know. I just encourage all you Brethren to pray for us and keep us in your prayers as we go through this year that we might honor and glorify our Father in Heaven.

In His service,
Brother Chad Sweitzer

Greetings from Kenya,

Everyone is fine and most of us have adjusted to our new lifestyle. It is different. In some ways more than others but everyone is enjoying life.

We are in the middle of the rainy season so it has been raining almost every day, which is good for the maize and our garden. Most of Kenyans have planted their maize and beans, which are the two main crops of Kenya.

We have been busy as well. There is much work to be done including building fence around our three acre field, remodeling, fixing up the guesthouse, planting and working in the garden and working on the water projects.

We children have been associating with the children that come to the compound to play ping-pong and volleyball, and have been drawing them to church. Our church seems to be growing in number. Our church services start at 9:30 A.M. each Sunday. They are not any different from our church services at home.

We just started another Sunday school class. Now we have one class for the younger children and a class for the young people or those that speak and understand English. Chad and I will be teaching that class. There are about twenty-five children in each class and still more coming. Our evening church service starts at 4:00 P.M. so the people can get home before dark.

On Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. we have prayer meeting. Their prayer meeting is different from ours. They sing praise songs that end in everyone kneeling and praying at once. Then someone expounds on the Word for a half hour or forty-five minutes, which ends in everyone audibly pouring out their heart to GOD, all at once. At the close we form a big circle, everyone holding hands, and express our needs and pray for them, then go home. It is a very spiritual meeting. Every Thursday we meet at 4:30 for Bible study. Please pray for these meetings and attend when you can!

Every time I awake I am reminded where I am and what I am doing or what my goal is. What about you? What is your goal? What are you living for? How about taking time right now to pray for that special unsaved person in your life.

We want to thank you for your prayers and letters. Be blessed and have a blessed day in the LORD!

HIS Servant,

Brother Derrick Sweitzer

We send Christian greetings to everyone from Kenya,

God has been so good to us since we arrived in Kenya. Life here on the mission field is interesting, it is hard to make definite plans for the next day as you never know what God will bring to pass. So we have to remain flexible and compassionate.

If you would have asked myself or my wife two years ago if we would be on the mission field we would have told you defiantly "No"! Now my mind is drawn to a song:

God Leads Us Along

In shady, green pastures, so rich and so sweet,
God leads His dear children along;
Where the water's cold flow bathes the weary ones feet,
God leads His dear children along.

Sometimes on the mount where the sun shines so bright,
God leads His dear children along;
Sometimes in the valley, in darkest of night,
God leads His dear children along.

Tho' sorrows befall us and Satan oppose'
God leads His dear children along;
Away from the mire and away from the clay,
God leads His dear children along.

Away up in glory, eternity's day,
God leads His dear children along.

Some thro' the waters, some thro' the flood,
Some thro' the fire, But all through blood;
Some thro' great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night seasons and all the day long.

I can say that God definitely does lead us along. In early spring of 1998 a few different people asked us whether we would consider going to Africa on the mission field. I said that if God wants us to go He would have to show us clearly that we were to go. My wife said she would never go to Africa. She has learned never to say never to the Lord, as He will often cause you to change your mind.

We would like to go over the next few months to share how God got us to accept His direction to come to Africa. When people started to suggest to us that they felt it would be good for our family to go to Africa, we felt like everyone always thinks the other person should go. We had so much going we did not see how we would ever be able to go. What would we do with the business? Our family is so big that it would cost too much to have our family on the mission field. What would we do about schooling for the children, as my wife does not like to home school?

So we put it out of the question, but God began to bring into our lives experiences that we would need to use on the mission field. If we would have come at first, we would not have been as prepared with experiences as we are now. So we thank God for His faithfulness in leading us along life's pathway. We will pick up our story next time.

Since coming to Africa our faith and trust in the Lord has deepened. We have to make many decisions every day in counseling with the people. Sometimes I feel like they are depending on me instead of God. It is hard to say "no" to the people, even when your heart wants to help in the worst way but we are not able to help every one. We have found that people here are the same as people in America. Every one feels that his problem is more important than others. Some times we have to explain the same thing over and over to them.

Under the direction of the African Board we have Ben doing most of the preaching here in the Church in Kapenguria, which is twice on Sundays and once on Thursday. We also try to go to one of the other five churches once during the week so we are kept busy being prepared to minister the Word, with messages that have practical principles applicable to daily living. It is very encouraging to us to see the response to the messages. We have seen an

increase in attendance and also an increased interest from the community.

We have been sharing messages on the importance of Godly fathers who will train their sons and daughters in the ways of the Lord. Even if their culture may tell them differently, it is God's Word that gives the instruction that the father is the one responsible to train the children. God's Word is the final authority for our living.

We have also been teaching in the Bible studies on the character qualities of Christ and the importance of developing them in our lives. It is rewarding to see interest in the Word and its application in their lives, which they are trying to do.

The last two months we have spent considerable time in counseling a number of members about finances. The people here in Kenya are the same as the people in America. Most of them do not have a plan when it comes to handling money. Jesus has taught us that if we are not able to manage a small amount of money we will not be able to handle the deep spiritual matters of the church.

Also we have been teaching the importance of honoring the Lord with the First Fruits of their increase with a tithe. Many of these people are just like Americans. They think that if they had more money, their business would be better. We have been telling and showing them how they need to keep track of where every shilling is spent. They need to be able to give an account of it all.

It would be good for every family in America to have to give an account of every penny that they earn to the official board of their church. Those who are on the mission field or have served know what it is like to have to submit a financial account to their board. You do not feel very good when it does not balance and they want to know where the money was spent.

I would encourage every one who reads this article to keep a tablet and pen in their pocket or purse and every time you spend even one cent or shilling write it down and what it was for. Then at the end of the week or month add it up and see if you can account for every thing that the Lord has given to you, and if it was spent wisely.

I believe that God calls us to integrity in all areas of life, and

finances are the areas that we try to hide the most. Most of us are too embarrassed to show others our financial records as they might expose our commitment to the Lord of our life, whether it is Money or God. Jesus says that we can not serve God and Mammon. Therefore we would encourage every one to seek ye first the kingdom of God. May God bless you as you live for Him.

In His Service,
Brother Merle Sweitzer

We have had the opportunity to visit all the Dunkard Churches here in Kenya. Kaptalamwa is about a two hour drive from the compound. Half the drive is dirt road with lots of hills and curves, gutters and potholes. It had just rained so there was no dust. This area is so beautiful, lots of high rolling hills. They raise a lot of sheep in this area, potatoes and cabbage. This village reminds me of some old western town. Most of the buildings are made of wood slats, no electric and a spring where they can get water. Chesubet is about the same; it's windy and cooler.

I experienced my first Kenyan baby shower. The shower for a baby girl named Cindia. After the sisters arrived we sang a few songs and had prayer then the opportunity was given for everyone to give words of encouragement to the new mother. During this time the baby was passed around for everyone to hold.

When they gave her to me, I had to open the layette, undress the baby and put the new clothes on her. Even the sweater which was about a size two. Then we were served tea and bread.

We brought Jane home from the hospital after a thirteen day stay. She was put through several tests and put on medication for a bad aortic valve. Her total bill was 2013 shillings (\$27.57), which comes to \$2.12 a day. In America you cannot even step in the door for that.

We started taking Swahili lessons. The children are picking it up pretty well. I think I am a hopeless case. We plan on classes twice a week, usually Tuesday and Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00. We may not be learning much, but we are having a lot of fun.

I have been playing nurse. One boy cut his ankle with a machete and it looked infected. It's healing up great. A member's

seven year old son fell buttocks first into a fire. We treat quite a few burns, since open flames are what everyone uses to cook with. Had a two year old with burns on her neck, chest and arms. A three year old was hit in the head by his five year old with the garden hoe. I got bit by a Nairobi fly and got a bad rash on my check, chin and neck. I ended up going to the clinic for medication.

When we went to Nairobi on some business, we had two flat tires and a bad fuel pump. We had just purchased a foot tire pump so we unhooked the fuel pump and put the tire pump on the hose and every time we came to a hill Chad or Merlin had to pump. It was quite a trip. We found out that it needed a new resister.

We also purchased the tent to have services under, with the rainy season coming. No one knew that we were getting it. So they were pretty excited when they saw it. That was Easter Sunday, which made the service extra special. Attendance is up to 117 to 127, with 50 to 60 children. We started two classes for children, eight and up. Chad and Edwin teach. The other Sunday, Angel leans over and says, "Mom! There's lots of children coming today and they are bringing their Grandma's, too." We usually have new visitors every week. They are really attentive and open to the Word. One visitor heard we were Satan worshippers, so he came to check it out. He found quite the opposite.

Thanks so much for your prayers, in behalf of the Masumba family. The meeting was a success and a great healing is taking place. Three of the boys are in our congregation. The following Sunday the whole family went forward and asked the congregation to support them as a family and that no one would divide them again. It was a special time of rejoicing.

A few of the sisters here have started their own produce business and wanted to go to a wholesale market in Luwanda, an hour and a half trip south of here. We also wanted to purchase maize, peas, peanuts and bean seeds which people wanted to plant. So we sent two men to check out prices. Then Merle went to pay. When they found out it was a white man she wanted a higher price and she would not give it at the price she quoted them. So they went and bought it from someone else. Three little girls followed us all around the market; they had to touch our skin and hair. People looked at us as if they never had seen white people before.

The girls wanted me to go with them for a walk to the river one day. They wanted to pick some fruit that looks like dark sweet cherries. They tasted far from it. If they are not ripe they draw your mouth like persimmons. We walked over hills, across a creek, over fences and fields. I was glad to get home.

The rainy season lasted about two weeks, with downpours of rain in the early afternoon and in the evenings. We found out this roof leaks in quite a few places. We have not had rain for about a week so we hope it rains again. The soil really soaks it up fast.

Hosea and James went along to the Ortum Church for services. We handed clothes out afterwards. We stopped at members in Chapcornishwa to give them fertilizer. Hosea was presented with a gift, a Billy goat. With seven other people to take back to our area, we had twenty-two people in an eleven passenger van, plus a goat. The ladies sat in the back and sang the whole way home. When we would come to a hill the van would just chug along and jerk. They would become real quiet then when it went, they would really sing. One never knows what is going to happen next.

The boys are involved in quite a few projects. They had to dig a new drainage ditch for the washer and shower. They put in a nice size garden, which is coming up really well. They had to replant green beans, sweet corn and limas. It was too much rain or the rats got them. They also put spouting up on the guesthouse. They are hoping to finish up the fence around the five acre maize field.

The girls are working at schoolbooks every day. They enjoy entertaining all the children and have made a lot of friends.

The water we have in a tank here is pumped from the river to the city. So it has been quite dirty during the rainy season. We are glad for the rainwater; we could put it right through the purifier without boiling it. That saved a lot of time and LP gas.

To conserve energy the electric is turned off on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. So we have learned to work around that.

May the Lord richly bless you all as you serve Him.

Our Love and Prayers!
Sister Cindy Sweitzer

PEOPLE FILLED WITH FAITH AND POWER—AND THE HOLY GHOST

Acts 6:1-15

As the new Church grew, there came to be some problems. It did not take long for the devil to begin working in the new Church, nor anywhere else! In the early days of the Christian Church, only Jews who had converted to Jesus Christ were a part of the church (up until Acts 10 and 11). You can see in verse 5 that Nicolas was a proselyte from Antioch. He had not been born a Jew, but had converted into a Jew later in life. So the Grecians were Jews from Greece, and the Hebrews were Jews from Israel. There was a problem between them.

In this new way of living — in a communal style where everyone sold all they had and gave the proceeds to the apostles, some felt that they were not being treated fairly. The Greeks felt that their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food.

Apparently, up until this time, the disciples (or apostles; the twelve) were doing the daily ministration. As the number of members of the early church was rapidly growing, this task became quite large. Great numbers of people were becoming Christians! Even a large number of priests believed! This was a very exciting time! The task of equitably distributing the food and clothing and whatever else they doled out on a daily basis was quickly becoming unwieldy.

Finally, the twelve called everybody together, and told them to select seven men, who would become deacons. All the physical labor and minute decision-making was becoming a burden — and taking away from their study and ministry of the Word, and it was also affecting their prayer lives. Indeed, we do need to prayerfully come before God, and fairly assess our abilities and limitations, and decide what we are called to do.

Notice the quality and character of the men whom they chose to be deacons. They were to be “men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.” Besides these commendable qualities, a man named Stephen was also full of faith and power. In our day, we would make preachers out of these types of men! Indeed,

Stephen appears to have been a preacher! Philip turned out to be an evangelist. They had pretty high standards for the men that they chose to work in the early Church.

Stephen was quite an eloquent speaker! He was a defender of the faith! If he had lived, he may well have taken Peter's place. His sermon in Acts 7 is longer and more carefully arranged (more logical) than Peter's two sermons were in Acts 2 and 3! In fact, he used so much logic, and was so full of the Holy Spirit's power and faith, that his detractors could not resist the wisdom and spirit by which he spoke! Isn't that neat? Of course, it was not neat — the way they treated Stephen. Instead of taking Stephen's message to heart, they decided to destroy him.

Summary Thought . . . If you would have been living in the early Church period, would you have qualified to become a deacon under the qualifications listed in this chapter? Each member of the body of Christ should have the qualifications listed in verses 3 and 8.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Are you ready?

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thess. 4:16-17). What a glorious event that will be! The question then confronting each of us, is, are you saved, are you ready so that you will go when Christ comes? Two shall be grinding at the mill, two shall be in the field and so forth, the one shall be taken and the other left. We must be ready.

Jesus tells us in the 24th chapter of Matthew of some of the signs leading up to the great event. First of all He tells us "take heed that no man deceive you." There are so many people being deceived today with the godless, watered down sermons of mod-

ernistic preachers. Because of this, people are not heeding the warning of the scriptures but are listening to man's theory and are not preparing themselves to meet the Lord in the clouds when He comes to take the saved of the earth to Heaven.

The scripture tells us that there shall be wars and rumours of wars, nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in divers places, but the end is not yet. There are more wars going on today, especially in the third world countries than ever in the times of history. We here in America need to be thankful that we have been spared the dreadful destruction of war for the most part. Earthquakes seem to shake the earth more frequently and pestilences of all sorts including AIDS take its toll among God's creation.

Matt. 24:46, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." In light of this scripture there have been many false prophets throughout times deceiving even the very elect at times. Some of these prophecies and predictions people have believed would come to pass such as the great prophecy of 1988 when many believed that the Lord was coming, made all preparation for the great event and then later drifted off into sin again. Many people also were looking for a great event at the turn of the new millennium, but all these prophecies failed. These false prophecies instills in the minds of people as Peter describes scoffers in the last days, saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (II Peter 3:4).

The days of the coming of the Son of man will be like the days of Noah before the flood. They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage and knew not until the flood came and took them away. We need to be careful lest we become carried away with the cares and pleasures of this life and forget to watch. "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." (Matt. 24:42).

If we knew that Jesus would come tonight:

Churches would be filled with praying people.

Shows, beer joints, dance halls, gambling dens, and other worldly, godless places would be emptied.

Cursing, swearing and vulgar language would stop.

There would be no "bean suppers" in the churches.

Women would wash the paint off their faces and put on enough clothes to be decent.

Men and women would throw away their tobacco.

Parents would burn up the cards, filthy literature, and other trash lying around in their homes.

There would be no more petting parties.

No one would have to be begged to take part in the Lord's work for all would want to be busy when He comes.

People who had been holding grudges would be trying to get the forgiveness of their fellow man.

The long-tongued gossipers would stop their devilish lying and start begging God for mercy.

Modernistic preachers would burn their Godless sermons and books and hunt frantically for a sermon on real salvation through the Precious Blood of Christ.

Television sets would be shut off and an effort made to get rid of them before the Lord arrived.

The little mouse on the mouse pad by the computer would be running around frantically clicking off all filthy trash and corruption on the Internet.

Merchants would be swamped with calls from those who wanted to pay old debts and clear up obligations.

Church treasuries would be flooded with money as delinquents sought to pay up their tithes and offerings.

Men and women living in adultery would suddenly make an effort to clean up their immoral lives.

Refrigerators would be emptied of beer, wine, and anything else that comes under God's condemnation.

The few hours left before the arrival of the Lord would be a

"Heaven on Earth" as everyone sought to do what they thought the Lord would have them to do.

According to scriptures, the Lord is not going to come when everyone is looking for Him. There will be no warning heralding His appearance, except for the sharp trumpet sound and the quickness as the flash of lightning, but He will come as a thief in the night when we least expect Him. May each of us live our everyday lives to the fullest for Him that we may also be ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Brother Paul Stump

THE GIFT BY GRACE

"But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many." Romans 5:15.

The Apostle Paul informs us that all people share a common defect. That defect is spiritual deadness because of the original sin of disobedience of our first parent, Adam. There are those who deny the reality of inherited Adamic sin, but the Scriptures seem to be very clear on this subject.

But the Apostle Paul does not leave us with this condemning fact of life. Praise God, he gives us the assurance that there is also available the free gift. He assures us that the grace of God is much more powerful than the Adamic curse we have inherited. This gift by grace is not something we can acquire by our own power or ability.

We are informed that it is by one man, Jesus Christ. Other Scriptures teach us that He was the God-man, God the Son who took upon Himself the form and nature of man, though sinless, so He could die on the cross of Calvary. A blood sacrifice has always been a part of God's demand for forgiveness of sin. Jesus Christ, the spotless lamb of God, shed His blood for our redemption.

Unfortunately, many Christians desire to limit the gift by grace. In a period of history it was taught that the black race does not

have a soul. This helped to sear the conscience of those who used them the same as farm animals. Even today there are radical groups who call themselves "Christian" who would limit the grace of God to the "white" race.

There are others who would seem to limit the gift of grace so as to eliminate hardened criminals. While we believe that the state (government) has the right to carry out capital punishment, the Church is to take a redemptive attitude towards such individuals. Revenge is human nature working in most of us. We can understand why it is easy to desire punishment for those who have murdered children and other innocent victims. But, is this really expressing the gift by grace?

During some periods of church history some religious leaders sanctioned the killing of "heretics." Many times these were individuals who merely disagreed with scriptural interpretation. While most allowed the state to carry out their bloody work there were a few who actually performed capital punishment in the name of the church.

A group we consider to be a cult had a teaching in their history that some sins could not be atoned by the blood of Christ but had to be atoned by the shedding of blood by the "guilty party." Two of the crimes associated with this teaching were murder and adultery. Strangely enough, at this time in history this cult practiced polygamy. In a recent talk with some who belong to this cult we were informed that the reason capital punishment was used was because they had formed a government within a government. The marriage of politics and religion always has disastrous results. The gift by grace is not practiced by civil government.

We should greatly appreciate the gift by grace. We do not believe there is one of us who can be "good enough" to truly gain God's favor and acceptance by their own merit. We believe that even the Apostle Paul had spiritual struggle wherein he admitted that "for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I..." There are those who say this was talking of his pre-conversion. Others teach that he had a "second experience" that gave him victory over this. We are persuaded that he had some of the same struggles that most of us experience. We do not believe the Apostle

Paul ever came to the place where he felt he was sinlessly perfect. Although we have to admit that some verses in his writings seem to suggest this.

While we do not believe in sinless perfection in this life, we do believe there is the danger of misusing the gift by grace. Paul deals with this subject in Romans 6:1-2, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" We believe that the clue to understanding these verses is that sin is no longer to have dominion or power over us. To live a sinless life should be our goal. We cannot take sin lightly. God will judge sin in our lives whether we have been converted and baptized or not. The punishment for a disobedient son (or daughter) who willfully rejects the grace of God and makes sin a lifestyle is the same as one who has never accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Let us praise God for His gift of grace and desire to live lives pleasing unto Him.

Brother James M. Hite
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CHILDREN'S PAGE

HOW RICH I AM!

"I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
Psa. 119:14.

When I was a child, I read some stories in the Old McGuffey's Readers that impressed me and the lessons they taught me have never been forgotten.

One of these stories told of a little boy who felt that his family was very poor, indeed. He had spent the morning with a playmate who lived in a fine home. His little friend had costly toys besides money in his pockets to spend as he wished. With tears in his eyes he ran to his mother, saying, "I'm sorry we are so poor!"

His mother was shocked. She laid aside her sewing to reason with her little boy. His uncle, who was visiting them, looked up from

the paper he had been reading and said, "I'm interested in learning more about eyes and will pay for yours. In exchange I will give you a pair of beautiful glass eyes!"

The boy refused emphatically shaking his head. His uncle kept raising the price, but the boy shook his head no at every offer. "What could I do without my eyes? I couldn't see Mother or the baby or the flowers or the horses or any of my pets, or anything else!"

"I will give you \$2,000.00," urged his uncle as he took a wad of bills from his jacket.

"Never!" exclaimed the boy who had become quite angry.

"Well, I see I will have to do without your eyes, but I will tell you what I will do. I'll give you \$20.00 if you will let me put a few drops of this liquid in your ears," he said as he drew a bottle from his pocket. "It will make you deaf, but I want to try some experiments with deafness."

"Well, I guess not. Why I couldn't hear a single word if I were deaf. I would never give up my hearing!"

His uncle made bids for his arms, hands, feet, nose, finally offering \$10,000.00 for Mother and \$5,000.00 for the Baby. All these offers were refused with flashing eyes. With indignation, he said, "I would like to see the man who could pay for them!"

"Your prices are too high so I will have to give up my experiments," said his uncle as he put the roll of bills back in his pocket. He took his note book and added the sums he had jotted down.

"Why see here!" he exclaimed. "After the amounts I offered you are totaled they amount to \$32,000.00! What do you think of that?"

The boy did not know what to think, but he had learned his lesson. He threw his arms about his mother's neck and whispered, "Mother, isn't God good to make us so rich?"

So we need to take good care of the body that our Heavenly Father has so wonderfully given to us. We want to grow up with strong and healthy bodies so it will be necessary to get the required hours of sleep at night. It will be beneficial to eat wholesome foods and get plenty of exercise each day. A cheerful heart and a willing desire to obey your parents as they teach you to love

God's Word, the Bible, is pleasing to the Lord.

Jesus, when a lad of twelve years of age, gave a good example for children. He was subject to His parents and grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man.

Sister Maxine Surbey

GOD'S "UNDO" BUTTON

At the top of my computer screen is a button with an arrow that curves upward and to the left. This little button is available for the times when I tell the computer to perform a certain task...and immediately realize that what I told it to do was not what I wanted. Perhaps after spending two hours on a two-page document I decide to change the type of font and proceed to highlight the entire document. Then in my haste I hit the wrong key or press the wrong button...and my entire document disappears! GONE! My eyes fly open in amazement and my jaw sags. I anticipate another two hours of typing (my favorite task). As I am about to give up in despair one of my daughters says, "Here. Press this button." PRESTO! There is my document! Just like it was before!

As I consider this, I am made to wonder how many times have I longed for an "Undo" button for my life? How many times have I said something to someone and instantly regretted saying it? Perhaps by the look of pain that crossed their face I am made to realize that what I said were not just words. They were swords or daggers...and now someone is hurting. How many times have I laughed at some off-color joke and then realized I have tarnished the reputation of other Christians as well as my own?

God does have a way of "undoing" my mistakes and failures. It is called repentance, confession, and forgiveness - realizing that what I said or did was wrong, having sorrow for having said or done what I did, confessing it to and asking the forgiveness of God and the ones that I have hurt.

Praise God for the promise we find in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Brother Stephen Blocher

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO GOD?

“Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.” I Corinthians 12:22-23.

This portion of scripture refers to the body and its many members: specifically the Church being compared to the human body. In our bodies the most important functions are carried out by those members which are seldom seen.

I think of the grand old ocean liners like the Titanic. They were beautiful above water but down in the holds dozens of sweaty men shoveled coal into the furnaces to make steam to turn the turbines. These men, as well as the filthy coal bins, were not seen by the stately patrons who leisurely roamed the upper decks.

In our society, today, much praise and wealth is heaped upon entertainment personalities, yet any garbage man is more important and serves a more useful purpose. A young man may marry a beautiful woman because of that beauty, yet in the long run it matters more greatly if she can cook and keep house.

In most cases our feet lack the comeliness of other body parts, but, oh how we favor an injured foot! The whole body is affected. Our internal organs are important and we often favor them, but we would not want to hold a stomach or heart, for instance, in our hands.

Every member of the body has been given a use, or purpose, by God. Yet some are covered up and never seen. Would we want to display them? No, never. Yet they are no less important. The preacher in the pulpit is no more important than the prayer warrior in the basement. The brother that looks after the meetinghouse, is he as much a part of God's plan as the elder, the evangelist, or someone else of high visibility?

When the preacher brings the message, how many are praying? Do we spend hours interceding for the gospel that goes forth? In the human body, the beating of the heart and the circulating of the blood cannot be seen on the surface. The stomach digesting

the food and the brain working are hidden, yet these functions not only assist the working of the body, they determine it.

We must try to find out what God sees as important, not how we feel. In verse 24 it tells us: "For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:" (and verse 25) "That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another." God's plan is perfect, but often man's will interferes. Every member has a use, and all members working together cause the body to be whole.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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BIBLE STORIES

A VOICE FROM HEAVEN

When Jesus was about thirty years old, the news came to Him that His cousin John was preaching in the wilderness of Judea and baptizing people in the river Jordan. After He heard this He no doubt told His mother that the time had come that He must begin His ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing to which God had called Him. There was little trouble to find where John was because the people thronged to see and hear him. John was clothed in a garment made of camel's hair and with a leather girdle around his waist. He must have had a powerful voice for the crowds that came to him were very large. One day as John was talking, he said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: But He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear." The next day after, Jesus came walking toward him asked John to baptize Him and John refused. "Oh no," he said, "You should baptize me." But Jesus insisted, "Let it be so, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." Jesus had no sins to wash away, but He wanted to set a perfect example for all who should follow Him. If He had not been baptized, others would have had an excuse for saying they did not need to be baptized either; and Jesus knew that would not be good for them.

John at last agreed, and he baptized Jesus in the river Jordan. Just as Jesus came up out of the water, something wonderful happened. The heavens were opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove, and lighted upon Him: and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Now after thirty years of study, prayer and obedience, Jesus was ready to begin His ministry of love. How beautiful it was on this very day, when His real work which He came to do had begun, that His heavenly Father should say to Him, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Just to know the Father loved Him and was pleased with Him, must have meant more to Jesus than we can imagine.

You like your father to be pleased with you, don't you? This made Jesus happy, too. He now had the courage needed to meet any trial that might come in the days ahead.

Brother Rudy Cover

DID I?

Did I set up an idol in my heart and life today?

Did I deviate a little from the straight and narrow way?

Did I use my eyes to see the things for which the world does yearn?

Did I rush to see those sinful things I know my Lord would spurn?

Did I use my hands to clutch the treasures offered by the world?

Did I even try to keep myself from darts that Satan hurled?

Did I turn my feet to go the way that is a downward road?

Did I go about my own way leaving others with my load?

Did I gossip just a little about things that I had heard?

Did I use an opportunity to pass on a hurtful word?

Did my heart feel any sadness about doing Satan's will?

Did the sinful things within my life give me a little thrill?
Did I even try to give up my life's little sinful things?
Did I look upon this old world as a place to try my wings?
Did I stay home from church today so I wouldn't feel so bad
About the way my life has gone, the way I've made God sad?
Did I think within myself that surely God wouldn't care, If I do some
things my friends would like for me with them to share?
Did I really accept Jesus in my heart and life today?
Did I promise I would walk with Him the straight and narrow way?
Did I use my eyes to read His word and keep it in my heart?
Did I memorize His word and promise never to depart?
Did I use my hands to clutch and hold my Savior unto me?
Did I trust Him with all my life, so I could with Him be?
Did I plant my feet upon the straight and narrow way?
Did I go where He would lead me and would guide me every day?
Did I tell the souls round about me that the Savior loves them too?
Did I spread the word 'bout Jesus and how He can make all things
new?
Did I encourage my minister after hearing him preach today?
Did I tell him that I pray for him with each new dawning day?
Did I show my love to others, those who also love the Lord?
Did I bind our hearts together with love's everlasting cord?
Did I set up an idol in my heart and life today?
Or did I walk with Jesus on the straight and narrow way?

Sister Jolene Andrews

WHERE IS MY MOMMY?

Hello. I am a one year old. I have five teeth. They are really sharp. Just ask my Nanny. My Nanny takes care of me, because my Mommy cannot right now. I see my Mommy each week. We go to a place called Prison. Mommy lives there.

I do not know why Mommy lives there and not with me, but sometimes I hear her and Nanny talking. Sometimes they say a word real quiet as if they do not want me to hear. But I hear it anyway. I think It must be bad. Maybe that's why Mommy is in that place. Maybe something happened one time. Sometimes Mommy cries when she says that word. That's why I think it must be bad. I wonder what that word means? Do you know what "Drugs" mean?

Sometimes my Mommy and my Nanny talk about a Man. They cry when they say His Name too, but I think they must be happy tears, because they always smile. And I know this Man. Do you? His name is Jesus.

Mommy says Drugs is the reason I cannot be with her, but Jesus chased Drugs away. I am glad Mommy says I should not like Drugs. He is naughty. Since Jesus chased Drugs away, will Mommy come get me soon?

Please, Jesus, keep Drugs away from my Mommy, so she can come home to me and Nanny.

Signed,
An Angel

Editor's note: The writer of this article is known to the Editor. Because of the nature of her work, it is thought best that she remain anonymous.

NEWS ITEMS

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation is prayerfully anticipating our Revival Meetings, July 16 through July 23. Bro. Paul Skiles will be with us as our evangelist. The meetings will close with Lovefeast services beginning Saturday, July 22 and continuing into Sunday,

July 23. We invite you to join us for this time of revival from the Lord.

Sister Ruth Clark, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation invites you to attend our Revival Meetings, July 16-23, 2000. Bro. David Rice from Englewood, Ohio plans to be with us as our evangelist. Please join us in prayer that the Word of God will be powerful in our midst.

Sister Mary Shaffer, Cor.

TEACHERS NEEDED

The Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church School is in need of teachers for this fall; high school, third grade, and fourth grade. Pray the Lord will provide. If interested call 717-933-4743 or write Bethel Church School, 5450 Four Point Road, Bethel, PA 19507. Thank you.

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 2000

July 2 - Confessions From The Heart - Romans 10:1-13.

1. Why is it so important that the confession of our mouth and the belief in our heart coincide?
2. What did Paul mean when he said, "There is no difference between the Jew and the Greek"?

July 9 - A Disobedient And Contrary People - Romans 10:14-21.

1. What is the source of faith?
2. Who is "them that are no people"?

July 16 - A Remnant According To Grace - Romans 11:1-10.

1. Explain the phrase, "there is a remnant according to the election of grace".
2. Why has God allowed most of the Jews to be spiritually blinded, deaf, and asleep?

July 23 - Broken And Gifted In Branches - Romans 11:11-24.

1. Why is the stumbling of the Jews important to the Gentiles?
2. Why were the natural branches broken off?

July 30 - A Future For The Broken Branches - Romans 11:25-36.

1. How long will the spiritual blindness of the Jews last?
2. How did the Gentiles obtain God's mercy?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 2000

July 2 - Traditions - Matt. 15:1-14, II Thess. 2:12-17.

1. To be pleasing to God, what must our traditions be based on?
2. Why is it important to hold the traditions which we have been taught?

July 9 - Goodness of Youth - Ecc. 12:1-7, Luke 2:49, II Tim. 1:5, II Tim. 3:15.

1. Why should we remember our Creator in the days of our youth?
2. At what age should we be about our Father's business?

July 16 - Self Indulgence - Ecc. 2:1-26.

1. Why do things not bring lasting satisfaction?
2. From where does wisdom, knowledge and joy come?

July 23 - Walking on the Sea - Matt. 14:22-36.

1. How was Peter able to walk on the water?
2. Why did Peter then later begin to sink?

July 30 - Jonah - Chapters 1-4.

1. Why did Jonah think he could run away from God?
2. Why did God give Jonah a second chance to obey Him?

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

FADE, FADE EACH EARTHLY JOY

Fade. fade each earthly joy, Jesus is mine!
Break ev'ry tender tie, Jesus is mine!
Dark is the wilderness, Earth has no resting place,
Jesus alone can bless, Jesus is mine!

Tempt not my soul away, Jesus is mine!
Here would I ever stay, Jesus is mine!
Perishing things of clay, Born but for one brief day,
Pass from my heart away, Jesus is mine!

Farewell, ye dreams of night, Jesus is mine!
Lost in this dawning light, Jesus is mine!
All that my soul has tried Left but a dismal void,
Jesus has satisfied, Jesus is mine!

Fare well, mortality, Jesus is mine!
Welcome eternity, Jesus is mine!
Welcome, O loved and blest, Welcome, sweet scenes of rest,
Welcome, my Saviour's breast, Jesus is mine!

-Catherine Bonar

A REVOLUTION

The Fourth of July celebrates the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In that document, the reasons for the Americans' desire for independence from Great Britain were set forth. These included several grievances against King George III and Parliament. After a long and difficult war, the Americans did eventually gain their independence and half of a continent.

That war was a revolution. A revolution upsets the normal situation. The colonies were no longer willing to be governed by the British government. They wanted to make their own choices which they felt better able to do than those who were in far off England. No longer would they be ruled by King George III, but by those whom they had chosen themselves. A revolution changes all the old relationships. Those formerly in charge are no longer in charge. New people now hold the reins of power.

There have been many political revolutions in the world over the past centuries. Some have been successful, but many have failed. Some that succeeded were actually harmful. Other revolutions brought changes that were beneficial. These political revolutions point out man's dissatisfaction with life around him. He wants a change whether in the political organization that rules him or in other parts of his surrounding environment.

Independence in some people's hands is a disaster. Instead of moderated independence it becomes license to do whatever is

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desired. Soon anarchy reigns and the whole pattern of government is broken down. Since all need to be governed, this is not good. This happens not only in the political realm but also in individual lives.

Each person needs to experience a revolution within his life. Each needs to rebel against the one who is controlling them. The natural man is controlled by Satan the god of the natural world. As long as he is given free reign within a person's life, he will direct that life into all manner of self-destructive activities. Satan will attempt to keep that person from believing and following God. Satan will try to keep him away from Jesus Christ.

If the work of the Spirit is accepted within the soul of a person, there will be a revolution wrought there. Everything will be changed. There will be new relationships. There will be new lifestyles. There will be a new desire to serve God instead of Satan. This revolution is called a new birth. It is as dramatic and life changing as a physical birth. What did not exist before now does. A child enters the world with only a few instincts to accompany the precious breath in its lungs. The new Christian is a new-born babe, who must be taught and helped to mature in the Christian walk of life.

This revolution should be so complete that there is no doubt about the change. A political revolution leaves no doubt in any observer's mind about who is in control. A Spiritual revolution should be just as noticeable. The direction of the Holy Spirit in the life of a new Christian should be not only an emotional change but a practical one as well. Everyday affairs should be handled in a different way than in the past. Becoming a Christian not only puts a name on the church roll, it also creates a new person aligned with God in His great purpose for this world. This is the greatest revolution in the history of the world. The American Revolution is noteworthy in the history, but the revolution that happens when a soul is born again is even greater.

As a Christian continues to live in the world, his Christian life may become mediocre. He no longer enjoys his Christian experience as he did in times past. The doctrines and practices that were vital and energizing to him have become less important. The daily issues of life have stolen away his fire for Christian living. He

becomes involved in the business of living and downplays the seriousness of his Christian commitment. As the world around allures him, he is persuaded to participate in activities that he would have shunned in an earlier time.

A Christian with those issues in his life needs another revolution in his life. It is not a need for salvation. It is a need for a revolution in lifestyle. It is time to declare that God and His Word are in control of his life. It may be as difficult as the first revolution because there will be opposition. It is a necessary revolution. It is necessary to have Bible Study, meditation, prayer and direction of the Holy Spirit to have the resolve to make the changes that are so revolutionary in a Christian life.

Are you a revolutionary? Are you willing for God to work a revolution in your life?

M.C.Cook

DESPISE NOT

Sometimes in life it seems that we come to expect failure. For many years people took it for granted that they would be physically ill from time to time. They merely looked for the solution to solve their illness rather than attempt to prevent it ahead of time. As Christians we can fall into the same bad habit.

Every time a new applicant is received into the body of Christ, a few verses from Matthew 18 are read. These verses explain to the applicant the proper procedure for handling problems between brethren and sisters.

Many offenses arise when one individual fails to take seriously the thoughts and feelings of another. An examination of the fore part of the 18th chapter of Matthew reveals that Jesus' disciples were interested in who was the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven. Another place we find the mother of two of the disciple asking that they be given the top spots in Christ's kingdom.

Vying for the top spot often creates intense feelings on the part of those striving to attain prominence. Worse, the victor often experiences such intense insecurity that he develops a competitive

self will filled with feelings of contempt and hatred for others. Many who strive for a position of power, forget the service aspect and revel in their feelings of self-importance.

Jesus says that we are to become as little children if we wish to see the kingdom of God. The Greek word used here is "paidion," meaning an infant or very small child. These children are incomplete. They are unskilled, undeveloped, dependent, vulnerable and immature. They are not proud or assertive.

Likely it was from the asking of such questions that Jesus sensed it was time for instructions on the handling of offenses. Jesus had specifically told the disciples for the third time of His impending death (Matt. 17:22-23). Yet, they continued to ask such selfish questions as "Who would be the greatest?"

A desire to elevate oneself above another fellow member of Christ's church, shows a lack of humility. It also indicates a despising nature. In Matt. 18:10 we find the command to despise not! The English definition of the word "despise" simply means to have contempt or disdain for another. However, in the Greek text, the word "exourtheneo" means to make of no account, or to regard as nothing.

Christians despise one another in many different ways. We may despise a believer by being indifferent to their spiritual needs and concerns (Galatians 6:1-2). We can despise a believer by ridiculing their physical appearance (II Corinthians 10:10, Galatians 4:14-15). Believers may feel despised due to partiality being shown to others. Such was the case in the book of James (2:1-4). A believer who has physical needs may feel despised if others withhold from them the necessities of life (I John 3:17).

Jesus makes it very clear that it is a serious matter when you despise a believer and they become offended. Perhaps we could all recognize at least one area in our life where we think we are doing a little better than someone else. Maybe it's the church we attend, or a job title at work.

Feeling good about who you are and what you have accomplished in life is normal and natural. It is psychologically healthy. The problem of despising others begins when we either start to

feel too good about ourselves (pride, arrogance), or believe we are totally inept as a person (envy, jealousy). Such feelings are unhealthy and lead us down a path where we are likely to offend others.

How serious is it to despise others? It is devastating to your witness and character. This not only deals with how people view you once you despise them, but of much greater consequence is how you offend those you despise. Jesus said it would be better for you to be drowned in the ocean. The person who despises others is like a cancer. Not only do they have improper feelings about themselves but they can cause others to respond in kind. Individuals caught in this mind-set become totally self absorbed and focus entirely on self preservation.

How do we best defend against despising others? Get into their lives. Pay a compliment for a job well done. Share in their accomplishments. Share in their sorrow. Often you forget all about your own problems and cares when you see those of your loved ones. May we each strive to live our lives in a modest and humble manner, in a way not offensive to others.

Brother Barak Boone

KENYA KNOTES

Dear Brothers And Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, a God who is still alive and working in the lives of His servants. I am here to testify to that. I believe that God is still alive and working. If it wasn't for the hand of God I don't think I would be here to testify to that fact.

As we were coming home from a brother's home place, it started to rain. There were fifteen people with us in the van as we were on our way home. A matatu or a taxi had just passed me, when he put on his right turn signal and applied his brakes. Since he had just passed us he was only fifteen feet away. I quickly applied the brakes and turned a little to the left as he had turned on his right turn signal. Immediately we started to slide. I went off the side of the road so that I would not run into the back of him and push him off

the side of the road. To do that would have caused him to either run into the ditch or to spin around. So I went off to the left. This all happened in about two seconds.

We first hit a big mound of dirt that slowed us down some. There was a shack on the side of the road in which people were waiting to get on the taxi. When they saw that we were not going to get stopped, they jumped out of the shack. We ran into the side of it. The top of the joice or rafter came through the window right at mouth level. We stopped at last. There was a steep incline off to our left. We were hanging precariously on the side of it, until we got out to see if anyone was hurt.

I (the driver) was the only one who was hurt at all. I had just about "eaten" the board. A few more feet and the board would have done more damage to my mouth. As it was I only had swollen lips and my eyes were scratched a little because of broken glass.

We could not go anywhere, so we flagged down a lorry. They eventually pulled us out. Praise the Lord! After taking the window out, we went on our way home. We just about made it home before it started to rain. I do not know if anyone who is reading this article has ever driven in the rain or not but I strongly advise against it. Nevertheless we made it home with help of the Lord.

As I look back over the incident, I can see that the hand of the Lord was with us. We still have a work to do, but God has to test us sometimes to see how we hold up in the face of disaster. If the Lord would have wanted to take me home at that time, He just would have to let us go three feet more and I would have been in Heaven with Him. But I know that He has a plan for me to carry out. It says in Matthew 10:28-31 that not one sparrow can fall to the ground and God does not know it. We are worth more than ten thousand sparrows. I can look at any danger and say, "God, You know what you are doing. If You want me Home with Jesus Christ then You are going to take me Home at this time and there is nothing that I can do or say to change that fact." Sometime in the future everyone will either die and go to heaven, or die and go to hell. That day can not be too far away. Only the Lord knows. But what concerns me is, are you ready to go and meet your Maker?

That day I was ready to die but God still has me here. All I can

say is "What next Lord?" I offer a challenge to you, go prepare to meet your Maker. He is always there and can take you Home at any time. The big question is ARE YOU READY?

Your Brother in Christ
Brother Chad Sweitzer

We send greetings to all in Jesus' name from beautiful Kenya. We are enjoying the work here in Kenya, with some days meeting and counseling people, other days delivering food to people, which always makes them very happy, other days waiting for hours at the hospital, and now most days trying to guess when the electric is going to come on. Most days it goes off at 6:30 in the morning, but you never know when it is going to come back on, most of the time it is after 6 or 7 P.M., or as late as 11:30 P.M. Or not till the next day. We have to remain flexible which means getting out of bed at 4 or 5 A.M. to write e-mail and other correspondence. Life continues to be interesting and God is still in control.

We would like to continue our story from last month. As we continued through the summer of 1998 God kept inserting thoughts of Africa into our mind. The subject came up at different times in family and friend's discussions. It was also interesting to read the articles in the Monitor, but God still did not write it on the wall. We were too busy with the business and too involved with Church work and family. In August the Lord took my nephew home and we felt burdened to help my niece care for her three children. God continued to bring the thought back to our minds.

Over Christmas, Brother Jeremiah and Sister Debra gave a presentation of the work in Kenya and it seemed very appealing to me. In January of 1999 Cindy determined that she was pregnant and said, "Now, we don't have to go to Africa." I said "What did you say?" She looked at me and smiled. The Lord had been dealing with her heart, as He was mine.

The pregnancy threw us for a loop as we were not planning for more children. Since it was almost seven years since the Lord had blessed us with a child, we had been concentrating on raising our family and were trying to develop good character in them. There-

fore we had to readjust our thinking and emotions about the pregnancy, which came with time. It seemed that God had closed the door to go to Africa and we put it out of our mind.

In the beginning of April, Cindy had her first appointment with the Midwife. I went along and we heard the heartbeat of the child, at that point we became excited about another child and looked forward with anticipation to holding and loving this child. Two weeks later when Cindy went to have an ultra sound done there was no heart beat. This was very devastating to the whole family as they were all excited about another child. We had the opportunity to see and hold little Zachary and see the awesomeness of a God that created us, as he was so small, yet complete in every detail. We buried him beside my father and sister. That was one of the hardest things that I had to do in my life, but it brought healing to our broken hearts. We did not realize that God was preparing us to come to Africa. Will continue next month.

We are grateful to God for the presence of His Holy Spirit, and for the prayers of the saints. If we had to do the work here in our own strength we would fail, but God is faithful. There have been many times when I was glad for the experiences that we have gone through in our lives. Dealing with many issues in raising children, working through problems in the Church and dealing with neighbors has been helpful.

After arriving here in Kenya and seeing the activity of Church members it was very evident that we had a division. There was one family that was split apart and would not fellowship together. I started to work with both sides of the family, as they were a major part of the leadership in the Church.

It was clear to see that both sides would exaggerate when talking about the problems. They were always ready to talk about the activities of the other side but were not willing to share much of their own activities. We started doing some investigating work and putting pressure on them to be open and honest with me. There have been times that I was told not to share something with someone as they would react a certain way, but I would always be very clear that I would not hide anything from anyone. After three months here, there are a few who are willing to be open and honest with

me, for which I am grateful.

In dealing with that family, I began to realize that it was something that I could not resolve but knew that it had to go back to the father and mother. Jesus tells us that we are to honor and respect our parents. I knew that this would be the only way that we would be able to have lasting results. So we made plans to take the whole family back to their home place.

When we were finally able to sit down to begin to discuss the problems with them, I shared with them the importance of communicating their problems with one another and being honest. We gave opportunity to each member of the family starting with the father and mother, from first born to last born. Some times it got rather heated and I had to step in and try to calm things down. After twelve hours of just sharing problems we went to bed at 3:00 A.M.

In the morning we sat back down again and I shared the importance of asking for forgiveness and beginning to rebuild their relationships. Every family member was given the opportunity to ask for forgiveness for the things with which they had offended the other person. Some of the members were not able to commit themselves to forgive yet, but wanted to see the actions in the lives of the rest of the family, as they had tried to do this before and it did not work. I told them that this was okay, but they needed to not let it go too long before they acknowledged it to the rest of the family. We ended with a season of prayer and embracing each other and tears of remorse and joy. We had a meal together to signify that they were willing to start over. I told them not to expect all their feelings to be healed immediately but to give it some time and to start to visit one another and rebuild the relationship slowly.

We left that meeting feeling encouraged but apprehensive about the results. We left it in God's hands to continue the work of restoration. A few weeks later the whole family gave testimony to the Church that they were now having peace with one another and they did not want anyone to try to divide them again, which I felt was the root of the whole problem and where they started.

I challenged the whole congregation that when they hear something about another person from someone they are to take that

person to the one they were talking about and talk it over with them and if they need someone else that I am available. This is the instruction Christ gives us to go to our Brother and settle the problem, not discuss it with everyone else.

I am happy to say that the family is still at peace with one another and working together. God's way of dealing with problems always works if we are willing to apply the principles of His Word, for which we thank Him. God is always faithful in doing His part if we are willing to do ours. Praise the Lord!!!

May God continue to be with all of us for the furtherance of His kingdom here on this earth. May God bless and keep all of us in the palm of His hand.

In His Service,
Brother Merle E. Sweitzer

IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT

Clay Harrison

It only takes a moment
To whisper words of praise
To thank God for the blessings
That decorate your day.

It only takes a moment
To lift someone in prayer
Who needs to be encouraged
And know that God is there.

It only takes a moment
To share a little love
With someone who is lonely
And lift their soul above.

It only takes a moment
To be a friend in need

To spread a little sunshine
While doing that good deed.

Life can be so complicated
That we forget to see
That it only takes a moment
To be the best that we can be!

-Selected by Sister Mildred Skiles

WHY THERE IS NO TELEVISION IN MY HOME

I grew up with a television in my home. The box itself is not evil, but the programming definitely is. I am sure that those who invented this machine never imagined the evil that today can be seen on it. As a youth I remember the jarring pictures I saw. Some things were exciting: the rockets flying to the moon, the sporting events and the like. But others were terrible: the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald over live television, the Vietnamese General executing the Vietcong soldier, and the images of dead Jews from German extermination camps. I remember these scenes after forty years in some cases. After a long struggle with television over many years we determined never to have one in our house. Here are some reasons why:

There is no television in my home because the Bible says, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes..." (Psalm 101:3)

My children need to occupy themselves in wholesome things, not waste their time with television.

Most television shows put down, or make fun of Christianity, the Bible, or Biblical values. Where do our alliances lie if we profess one thing, yet allow the enemy such a foothold?

Hollywood is the home of liberal, progressive, left-wing thinking. Most of these folks do not believe in God and believe that abortion, adultery, fornication, nudity, drunkenness, and such are okay. What is worse, they preach these things on their television pulpit!

Some say that there is religious programming on the television.

This is true, yet most of what we have seen that is professed Christianity is either so bland and tasteless that God would spew it out of His mouth, or it is plainly unscriptural. There is nothing on television that nearly resembles our fraternity in faith and practice and the "Bibles" they use do not resemble the Authorized Version.

Some may say, "Everyone else has television, you cannot get away from it." Where we live there are lots of Mennonites and Amish. They do not have television. They are doing fine without it. If my children go places where there is television, they can at least say they did not see it in their own home. We will then become the refuge where anyone can come to escape these worldly practices.

The world expects better of the Christian. Though we are not perfect, in many things we must take a stand. If the world sees us buying every new thing that comes along and getting all wrapped up in the things that THEY hold dear, then what example are we?

There is no television in my home because I know my own weaknesses. I know of its power to hypnotize, like the snake hypnotizes the bird before it is caught and eaten. The devil knows he can rob the Church of time it should be studying God's word, praying, and spreading the Gospel.

Achan saw some things he liked that belonged to the enemy and he hid them in his tent. How frustrating to steal something and not be able to make use of it! Yet he did and he paid the price (the ultimate price). Years ago the church disciplined those who had television. Today in many ways the church is more forbearing, yet the damage is done none the less. The influence of television is seen in how our young people dress and act, and even in how some of our preachers preach. The worldly preachers are big on oratory, yet small in scripture. We need to preach the Word without the worldly television influence. If our preachers need to get out in the wilderness and commune with God (read about John the Baptist, Jesus, and Paul), then so be it. There is no greater threat to the devil's work than a man who has total, unbroken communion with God.

How can we defeat the devil? We can defeat him by getting rid of every worldly influence, including the television, and beg Him as was done in old time, "What wouldst thou have me to do?" When

He tells you, then do it, by the Grace of God.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

TELEVISION AND THE HOME

Of our children, the Bible says, "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4) This verse is one with which we are all familiar, and applications of this commandment to parents are not hard to come by.

One aspect of this commandment is that parents should help their children to reject the ways of the world and lead a holy life. This is what concerns us in the present discussion. This mandate requires oversight and discernment on such matters as wearing certain clothes, listening to certain music, and choosing playmates or friends to "hang out with." The ultimate goal is to train our young people so that they will maintain a Christian lifestyle when they are no longer under the direct influence of the home.

This type of parental authority should not be dismissed as unnecessary when it comes to the matter of viewing television. Many works have been written on the subject of TV and its immediate problems, but consideration of the power and effects of television is rare.

Television is highly effective, no matter what its content may be. Consequently, it would be wise for us to appreciate the brute power of it and the special danger that it poses to children, its power springs in large part from the fact that it combines the wonders of sight and sound. Sound alone is very engaging; children will frequently be able to recite from memory a favorite audio tape with exact inflection and timing. The sound has recognizable imprinting power. Visual images have similar effects on young children. I still remember every page of my favorite picture books from my childhood, even though they lacked animation.

It is therefore understandable that the combination of audio and fully animated video results in a permanent engraving of images and ideas upon the mind. If it were possible to add together the

imprinting power of sound and sight, however, the sum would not equal TV's total effect—it would fall significantly short. This is because the mind is much more active and “open” when one is exposed to sight or sound alone. When you hear a radio drama, for example, pictures of what is going on in the story come into your mind. They are the products of an active imagination. Similarly, when a child looks through a picture book, the story can be derived with a little effort.

But with television, the imaginative element is largely stripped away, leaving a slack-jawed mind completely immersed in what it is being fed. Little effort is made by the viewer. The mind is disengaged; everything is blandly absorbed and the brainwashing begins. All else fades in importance. The mind is left with an experience as unforgettable as a wilderness hike or a deep-sea dive. TV provides total immersion. The special danger to children is that repeated immersions in this powerful element will leave equally powerful memories in their fragile minds, and those memories can have a bad effect on their thinking and behavior.

The effect of TV does not end here. One does not simply watch TV and walk away unchanged. After watching a session of TV, the mind is changed - the effect of watching many hours of television every day is hard to imagine. According to the American Medical Journal, the average child watches 5,000 hours of television before entering the first grade. Are we to assume that all this TV watching is harmless? No, the effect of all this wasted time builds up upon itself. We become addicted to it and crave more, oblivious to its power over us. Increasingly, TV becomes a wellspring of both life and information about the world around us, all uncontrolled and unobserved. Joel Nederhood has compared the effect of TV to that of alcohol. If these reasons for removing the TV from the home are insufficient, the next one should be convincing.

The last reason for banishing this Goliath from the home is that it distorts the thinking of our children. Children are made by God to be impressionable and receptive. The actions and surroundings that a child considers normal are those that he is most used to observing. Godly homes generally result in Godly children. Similarly, the hypnotizing power of TV, extending over many hours, will

affect a child's sense of reality. For example, afternoon soap operas can gradually come to be accepted in the child's mind as portraying normal life situations. Whatever the programming may be, the child will be a wide-eyed, attentive listener, and will be uncritical of its message.

In addition to this, subjects are often openly discussed on TV about which even adults hardly used to know. As a result of this exposure, sadly, children can come to accept these things, such as homosexuality, as completely normal—and even desirable.

And if such programs are kept off-limits to children, even their exposure to children's programming can be harmful. Programs such as Sesame Street are often extremely fast-paced and erratic. Some authors have noted that children who watch much of this type of programming tend to be almost hyperactive (Joel Nederhood, "Educational Television," *The Radio Pulpit*, p.40). Thus, a steady diet of watching TV during the formative years often results in somewhat disjointed mental growth.

Beyond this, the time taken up by TV often encroaches upon other things, such as reading of books (Larry Woiwode, "Television: The Cyclops That Eats Books," *Imprimus*, February 1992, pp.1-3).

I am contending that the TV should be permanently removed from the home for two reasons. First, it has enormous power when it is on, and its message persists long after it is turned off. Second, TV has absurd and often dangerous programming, which undermines the Christian view of reality. For these reasons, we should be constantly wary of this obtrusive hazard.

Written by Mr. Jon Landell,
who is 17 and resides in Barre, Vermont
Selected by Brother Dean Shaffer
and reprinted with permission.

ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

I Corinthians 15:2-3, "By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;"

Satan's greatest deception today, we believe, is the teaching that Scripture cannot be accepted without human criticism and human reasoning. While we believe what we now refer to as the Old Testament, which the Apostle Paul was certainly referring to in our opening verses, cannot be used to establish church rules or lifestyle application, it must be acknowledged as inspired Holy Scripture.

The very bedrock of our Faith, known as cardinal doctrines, is introduced to us on the pages of the Old Testament. Though not mentioned in this portion of Scripture, we believe the Apostle Paul would include them in the things "By which also ye are saved." We are fully persuaded that they were included in the things of which the Apostle Paul said, "If ye keep in memory what I preached unto you." He gives the compelling warning that to fail to keep these things in memory means that "ye have believed in vain." While there have been skeptics and false teachers within the church from its very founding, we doubt if there has ever been a time in history to equal our own when the pulpit, generally speaking, has become a place to question the Word of God in place of defending it!

While Paul was speaking with the authority of an apostle, he assures us that the words are not his own. "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received." The Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit revealed these truths to the Apostle Paul. The same source can verify these truths in our heart, mind and soul.

Not only are church rules and regulations being questioned today but church leaders are questioning what the Apostle Paul declared to be the very heart of the Gospel. Just a thought, most of the time rules and regulations are questioned and cast off first.

It seems almost impossible to believe, but it is actually popular in today's theology to question the fact that Jesus Christ died for our sins. Though we do not own a computer, we have read that some "religious" web sites are giving this nonsense to preachers for sermon topics and material.

The Old Testament introduces us to the sacrificial system ordained by God. There are many types and various allusions to the greatest and final sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ to be found on the pages of the Old Testament. Those who are "turned off" by a God who would allow His Son to be sacrificed do not realize the awfulness of sin. While we may not be able to explain completely in human terms how the blood of Christ can cleanse us from sin, we need only to rest in the fact that it is according to the Scriptures.

There are few who would argue with the fact that Jesus Christ was buried. But some foolishly argue that Jesus only "swooned" and was not actually dead. According to the Scriptures He was. Others declare that this was the end of a mortal Jesus. But, PRAISE GOD, we read "that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

The Scriptures leave no room for doubt. "And that he was seen of Cephas, (Peter), then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, (speaking of Paul's day), but some are fallen asleep (some died). After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me (the Apostle Paul) also, as one born out of due time."

While we believe the Apostle Paul was the last to actually see the Lord Jesus Christ, we can "see" him by the eyes of faith. There are those who claim to have had a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will leave such to God's judgment. However, I John 3:2 tells us, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

Let us hold fast to Holy Scripture. Let us rejoice in our Risen Lord. Let us humbly thank God for salvation. If you are not saved Christ died for you. Seek salvation today according to the Scriptures.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

CHRISTIANS DRAWN BY THIS PRESENT WORLD'S CHARMS

A. W. Tozer

"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." II Peter 2:19.

With The Bible open before us and a long tradition of truth behind us, there would seem to be no reason for the present tragic failure of Christians to recognize the world's deceptive appeal and to stay clear of it. For there must not be any denial of the facts: the church is being overwhelmed by the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them!

That world which our Saviour once refused to buy at the price of disobedience to God is now wooing His professed followers with every sly, deceptive artifice. The glory which our Lord once rejected with cold scorn is now being admired and sought after by multitudes who make a loud profession of accepting the gospel. The old trick which our Lord saw through so easily is charming His present-day followers into smiling acquiescence.

The devil did not know Christ - but apparently he knows Christians! The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life have all been "Christianized" (not by the liberal, mind you, but by the evangelicals and are now offered along with Christ to everyone who will "believe." Blind leaders of blind souls now insist that Christians should not cut themselves off from the pleasures of the world, so the very values that Christ scorned are not being used to attract people to the gospel.

We stand in need of warning: in spite of prophetic voices that are raised here and there among us, present-day believers are being drawn to the world with irresistible force!

Selected by Sister Terry Scofield

A BROTHER'S LETTER

My dear precious Brother and Sister in Christ Jesus,

I wanted to tell you how very precious and important each of

you have become to me. Even if we are only together a short time when we see each other I feel uplifted after being with you. You are true servants of our Savior.

I desire to address the issue of dress among the Brotherhood. I have polled several of the Brethren with varying results. I think we need clarification of the concept of "plain dress". As you probably know I have come to the Dunkard Brethren with some foreknowledge of the church. My grandparents and great uncles were of the Brotherhood. I grew up respecting the devotion and plain lifestyle of the people and their love and faithfulness to our Lord Jesus.

I lived in and for "the world" for considerable years and only through the grace of Jesus did I return to His loving arms. I had accepted Jesus at a fairly young age. I felt that I had been called at that time. However, I grew away from Him. After tasting the temptation Satan had offered me, I knew my life was terribly amiss. Like the prodigal son I came home to Him. My growth is still hampered by the temptation of the world but through study and prayer I have come a long way.

On the path that has brought me to the brotherhood of the Dunkard Church, I have tried several ways of worship. I have gone to several different denominations and even some non-denominational churches. There were always the questions of: things like why do they have the Lord's Supper in the morning? Our Savior in His perfection can certainly be clear in His statement that we should wash our brother's feet (as He had set the example). What about the veiling, the holy kiss and on and on?

I believe when the Holy Scriptures speaks of "one accord" that it means in our love, dedication of service, celebration, praise, study and yes even the way we clothe ourselves. I hardly look upon plain dress as a cross to bear. I see many wonderful characteristics among the Brethren and Sisters of our faith. In fact, love is overflowing.

After corresponding with several members of our faith, I decided to give the Grandview church a try. As you know I have been involved in serving the Lord, the church and its efforts for a few years now. During that time I have heard sermons preached about

how the sisters are so recognizable and such a good witness for the Lord. I hear how their appearance draws people into a conversation about our Heavenly father. I totally agree. It is wonderful! I think we should thank them often for their dedication of abiding in the Word. I am confident their efforts will be rewarded.

It does not appear obedient when the men only dress "plain" during our church services. There are some among the Dunkard Brethren who even neglect wearing "the coat with the standing collar". I believe it is all-important or none of it is important! As I have pursued this study I have asked the Lord to reveal the truth to me. I find that my ideas are parallel with the pioneers of our faith. I believe "do not conform to the world" means...Do not conform to the world.!

It has been a personal observation after studying photographs of our early brothers that we have obviously updated our attire. If that is the case, we are yielding to the fashions of the world. Or perhaps becoming worldly. Are we listening to the opponents of our beliefs when they make comments such as, "The Lord doesn't judge us from the outward appearance. He only looks on the inside!" In my opinion, that is a dangerous, inspired ploy of the Devil.

As I began fellowshiping with my Brothers and Sisters, I did not have to be told to wear an undershirt under my white shirt. I did not have to be told what type shirt collar I was expected to wear. I knew that a button-down collar was fashionable. If we lose perspective of what is meant by "modest apparel" or "costly array": will we soon be moving in a piano, building a choir loft and taking communion at 11:00 AM.?

Some might say, "Rather than wasting time discussing what to wear one should be thinking and doing more spiritual things." Let us remember that the inspired messages put down in the Holy Bible include instructive words such as, "plain", "humble", "non-conforming", "meek" and "lowly". And these are only a few. It is interesting that these words have been used to describe our instruction for dress. I have heard the idea that plain dress for the Brothers was formed on tradition. I would rather be steeped in God-fearing tradition than put on the styles that are an insult to all that Christianity represents.

As I began my search to help me conclude what is the proper and appropriate attire in keeping with God's Word and the polity of the church, I first searched the Bible, "The Brethren's Card", the tracts that we provide and the "Dunkard Brethren Church Polity". When I looked at the polity I saw on the inside cover the three verses. I Cor. 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." Phil. 2:2, "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Phil. 3:16, "Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." The committee that offered us the 1993 Edition of the Dunkard Brethren Church Polity did so "After many hours of prayerful and extensive search of all past minutes and the previous editions of the Polity Booklet we have compiled this revision in the hope that all may become more familiar with Our Church Polity." I sincerely believe that all members of the Brotherhood understand what is expected of them.

As we look around our churches we see young brothers and sisters that will soon be the leaders and workers in our churches. I believe that it is an awesome responsibility to set the example for them. Are we living examples of non-conformity? As parents do we encourage the styles of humility or "let them go along with the world"? Satan has not only created peer pressure for the children but also the parents. I believe God is looking for Godly men and women who are willing to take their stand against the world.

I have an elderly Amish friend. He and I were discussing the fashions of the world and how they were not in harmony with the teachings of the Bible. He said, "That is one reason we feel that our children should dress modestly. After all the Word tells us, 'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.'" (Prov. 22:6). Brothers are we the examples for the young men? We have to let our light shine. If the children are given the fashionable clothing of the world will they feel punished when it is time to accept what we believe and begin dressing in modest apparel? Are we as parents providing our children with worldly apparel?

Each day when I open my eyes I know that I will start another day trying to be all the Lord would have me to be. But very early in the day I know I have become a disappointment to Him. I think I can relate to the Apostle Paul as he told Timothy, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (I Tim. 1:15) I believe I am chief of sinners. But by His shed blood and by His grace I am redeemed. One thing I can do is to be modest in the way I dress.

As I embarked on this study I have come to realize that I can recognize different professions and people of the world by the way they dress. Nurses are identifiable by the way they dress as well as policemen, firemen, cowboys, pilots and so forth. Then I have also noticed Amish men, women and children; German Baptist men, women and children. And of course I have noticed Dunkard Brethren women and the way they dress. I have wondered why only the women of our church are recognizable every day compared to the men being only identifiable during our services. On occasion the men even change into their "church clothes" at church.

As I suggested in the beginning of this letter I think that there is room for much-needed, clarification of dress. I also believe there needs to be a re-evaluation given to the meaning and definition of plain dress for the men of our brotherhood. I offer these ideas and concerns to you out of brotherly love and the interest I have in keeping the Dunkard Church alive and progressing in the spirit that our ancestors had intended.

Love in Christ Jesus
Brother Louis Klesath

"AROUND THE CORNER"

Around the corner I have a friend,
In this great city that has no end.
Yet days go by, and weeks rush on,
And before I know it a year is gone.
And I never see my friend's face.
For life is a swift and terrible race.

He knows I like him just as well
As in the days when I rang his bell
And he rang mine. We were younger then,
And now we are busy, tired men;
Tired with playing a foolish game.
Tired with trying to make a name.
"Tomorrow," I say, "I will call on Jim
Just to show that I'm thinking of him."
But tomorrow comes-and tomorrow goes,
And the distance between us grows and grows.
Around the corner, yet miles away,
"Here's a telegram, sir." "Jim died today."
And that's what we get, and deserve, in the end;
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

Selected by Sister Ruthanna Lilly

THE WOMEN MINISTRY

The question about women ministry, has been misunderstood for many years. Many people having misinterpreted the Bible are covering themselves with a blanket called "GRACE". Much of what they are doing under grace is contrary to the Holy Scriptures. Proverbs 13:13 records that, "Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded." The Lord wants us to read His Word and understand it but He will destroy everyone who responds to it negatively. We should not add anything or subtract anything from the Word of God. For the Bible says, "...one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." All people who break and disobey the least commandments in the Bible shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. Revelation 22:18-19 records that, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the

things which are written in this book." So there is danger to all who do things which are not written in the Scriptures.

One of the things that people have added to the Scriptures is "women ministry". Now days we have women ministers, evangelists, deacons and even elders. This has brought confusion in the present Church, because it was not the will of God to have women ministers and evangelists. Women have taken the evangelical scene by storm and are causing ripples in an area previously considered male domain.

When Jesus started His ministry, He called the people referred to as the disciples. These disciples were twelve in number and among them there were no women. When Jesus was to go back to the Father He called His eleven disciples and breathed unto them and told them to go into all nations preaching the gospel.

In Kenya, many women are taking part in ministering the Word of God. They preach in churches, crusades and revival meetings. Mostly, these women are former wives of pastors and evangelists. Some of them are divorcees of church leaders. These women have taken to the pulpit majorly because they have an old score to settle against the men. Many of them preach against the ills perpetrated against women. The women's rights crusade is breaking new grounds. The women seem to want to entrench themselves in all the fields previously dominated by men. They are fighting for equality forgetting that God made man and made woman out of man.

Most of the women evangelists go from their own churches, and this is manifestation of a leadership ego. It clearly shows that women were not comfortable under the leadership of male preachers. They want to go ahead, alone, to prove to the flock that they are as capable as the men to lead the church. This is a clear indication that there is total disregard of the Biblical teachings, because some of these women preachers are merely pursuing their own selfish goals. Their flock is constituted mainly of frustrated women who are either divorced, like the preachers, or those who are not married for varied reasons.

The Bible states that when a woman preaches to the man, both the woman preacher and the men listening are ignorant. I Corinthians 14:34, 38, "Let your women keep silence in the

churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law,...But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant." to be taught by women. Nevertheless I Timothy 2:11-12 records that, "Let the women learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

Many confused people say that these were the words of the Apostle Paul to the Church in Corinth and to the young Timothy, but Paul himself tells us that "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord." So we must believe that all letters written by Apostle Paul were inspired by the Lord through the Holy Ghost. He starts writing his letter with an introduction to whom he is writing. I Corinthians 1:2 Paul says that he is writing to "the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:" We should not divide the Word of God. We must receive and accept it the way it is because it is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction for righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works".

It is true to say that all women, who use the pulpit to preach in the presence of their husbands and other men, are not keeping the commandment of God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said that "if you love me you will keep my commandments." Do women preachers keep the commandments of Jesus? If not, do they love Jesus? If they do not love Jesus will they be received in Heaven?

Women preachers are working in vain for one day they will be denied by Jesus. For they draw nigh unto Jesus with their mouths, and honoureth Him with their lips; but their hearts are far from Jesus. In vain they do worship Jesus teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. The will of God is to let women keep silence and be obedient in the church. But women today are not ready to submit to this. They have forgotten that Matthew 7:21 records that, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Some women think that they will be accepted in Heaven

for having preached in the world. Matthew 7:22-23 says, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." It does not matter how women may preach and evangelize in the name of Jesus, a day will come when Jesus will deny them.

I would request all women who have taken part in the field of preaching and evangelism to re-read the Word of God and step down from these activities. Let them sit down as their husbands take over. God will bless them all and give them the most precious reward of eternal life.

Brother James Musumba
Box 658
Kapenguria, Kenya, East Africa

NEWS ITEMS

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Bro. Paul Stump will be holding Revival Meetings at Dallas Center, Iowa starting July 23. There will be a Lovefeast service July 30. Pray for these meetings that souls might be revived.

Sister Mary Sue Moss, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings, July 30 through August 6, 2000. Brother Mark Andrews, from Grandview, Missouri, plans to be with us. Please pray and come and be inspired by God's Holy Word.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Revival Meetings 2000, will begin August 18 through 27, if it please the Lord. Brother Mark Cordrey will be our Evangelist and speaker for Harvest Meeting which is August 20, A.M. Evening meetings will begin at 7:30. Please pray, come and enjoy a refreshing in God's Word.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation is looking forward to a revival, August 27 through September 3. Bro. Fred Pifer from Dallas Center, Iowa has consented to be with us. Please come and pray for a spiritual renewal.

Sister Fern Wolfe

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The correct address for Bro. David Aungst is: RR 5 Box 168, Pine Grove, PA 17963.

GENERAL MISSION BOARD CHANGE

The new treasurer of the General Mission Board is Bro. Gordon Jamison, 2270 Co. Rd 74, Quinter, KS 67752. Please continue to send your contributions to the secretary, Bro. Robert Carpenter, but made out to the treasurer.

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The new treasurer of the Relief Board is Bro. Lloyd Lorenz, 3949 S 100 E, Peru, IN 46970. Please continue to send your contributions to the secretary, Bro. Martin Meyers, but made out to the treasurer.

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The new secretary of the Bible Study Board is Bro. Tom St. John, 20380 Co. Road R, Alvordton, OH 43501. Please send your contributions for this board to the secretary, but made out to the treasurer.

CONFERENCE TAPES

Conference tapes are available for those who wish to obtain them.

TAPE #1 Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson, "Using Down Time Wisely"

Bro. Dennis Meyers, "Your Body, His Temple"

TAPE #2 Bro. Thomas St. John, "Christian Liberty"

Bro. Edward Johnson, "The Foundation"

TAPE #3 Bro. Harley Flory, "Behold, It Was Hid In His Tent"

Bro. David Skiles, "How Is Your Vision"

TAPE #4 Bro. Jeremiah Johnson, "Leaders"

Bro. Dennis St. John, "Great Expectations"

TAPE #5 Bro. Gordon Jamison, (YOUNG PEOPLE'S) "Chasing Rainbows"

TAPE #6 Bro. Jim Eberly, "Participators or Spectators?"

Bro. David Aungst, "The Little Things"

TAPE #7 Bro. Frank Reed, "Church History"

TAPE #8 Bro. Dean Shaffer, "True And False Wisdom"

Bro. Paul Skiles, "Lowly Vessel"

TAPE #9 Bro. Henry Walker, "The Church Triumphant"

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ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 2000

August 6 - Living Sacrifices - Romans 12:1-9.

1. How can we be living and yet present our bodies as a sacrifice?
2. Explain the process of transformation.

August 13 - Overcomers' Lifestyles - Romans 12:10-21.

1. What is the meaning of the word Dissimulation?
2. How can evil be overcome with good?

August 20 - Responsibilities Toward Neighbors And Worldly Authorities - Romans 13:1-14.

1. How is love "the fulfilling of the law"?
2. What is "the armour of light"?

August 27 - Liberty, Not Judgment Toward One Another - Romans 14:1-13.

1. What are "doubtful disputations"?
2. What could be "a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall" that we may put in someone's way?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 2000

August 6 - The Ark - Gen. 6:1-22.

1. Along with sinful mankind, why did God "destroy all flesh wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven, and everything that is in the earth"?
2. What was the covenant that God established with Noah?

August 13 - Miraculous Catch Of Fish - Luke 5:1-11.

1. Why did Peter remind Jesus that they had fished all night and caught nothing?
2. What did Jesus want His disciples to learn from this fishing lesson?

August 20 - Cooperation - Matt. 18:19-20, I Cor. 1:10-11, Phil. 1:27-30.

1. Why is it so important that followers of Christ be in agreement?
2. How can we "be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment"?

August 27 - Stewards - Matt. 25:14-15, I Cor. 4:2, I Cor. 6:19-20, I Pet. 4:10-16.

1. What has God provided to you personally that is under your stewardship?
2. What does God require of stewards?

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SAVIOR LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

Savior like a shepherd lead us:

Much we need thy tender care;

In thy pleasant pastures feed us,

For our use thy fold prepare:

We are thine: do thou befriend us,

Be the guardian of our way;

Keep thy flock, from sin defend us,

Seek us when we go astray.

Thou hast promised to receive us,

Poor and sinful though we be;

Thou hast mercy to relieve us,

Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:

Early let us seek thy favor,

Early help us do thy will;

Holy Lord, our only Savior!

With thy grace our bosom fill.

-Dorothy Ann Thrupp

BROKEN CISTERNS

Many have had the experience of a leaking radiator hose or defective water pump causing enough water to leak out that the engine of the automobile is damaged or even ruined. The engine must have water or it will become hot and destroy itself. A little neglect and the engine is ruined. A large repair bill or the necessity of buying another vehicle is at hand.

This experience with automobiles points out the difficulty of trying to keep water in a vessel that is not water tight. A pail that has one small hole will soon empty its contents. A stock tank with a leak will soon not provide the stock with the necessary water. A cistern that can not hold water will not be a useful source of water.

Cisterns have been used for thousands of years to collect rain water so it can be used later. The water is directed into a hole where it can be stored. Sometimes these cisterns are simply holes dug in the ground. Others are more elaborate with cement or some other barrier to hold the water. To get the water stored in a cistern, a bucket must be lowered to bring the water to where it can be used. Other cisterns are rigged with pumps to more easily bring the water to where it can be used. A cistern can be a very necessary way of storing water until needed. When water is needed the cistern is really appreciated.

If water is needed, but the cistern is faulty, there will be frustration. It was trusted to provide the water that was needed. Now in

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the time of need it has failed. After investigation it is found that the cistern leaks. It is a broken cistern.

Jeremiah speaks of broken cisterns (Jer. 2:13). God gave him a message for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. He upbraided them for their lack of loyalty to God, who had delivered them out of Egypt into the Promised Land. They had committed two gross errors. They had forsaken Him. They had built broken cisterns.

God pictured Himself as the fountain of living waters. They had chosen to forsake Him. This picture is further elaborated on by Jesus when He presented Himself to the woman at the well (John 4). There He offered the living water that would spring up unto everlasting life. After His interview with this woman she was willing to accept that living water. The Children of Israel had rejected the living water, both when they rejected God's direction after they had possessed the Promised Land and when they had rejected Jesus as their Messiah.

They had refused to follow the Law that He had given to Moses for their benefit. They had rejected Him, by calling for a king. The good things of God were available to them but they did not want them.

Their second error was in building broken cisterns. They had constructed these broken Spiritual cisterns by following the unholy gods of their neighbors. They had worshipped Baal and Ashtoreth. They had ignored the righteous advice that God had given them. They had gone after the fads and fashions of the world that had appealed to them. They had intermarried with heathen tribes. They tried to build their cisterns by their own plans rather than by God's. Righteousness, holiness, justice, and love were not major building blocks in their cisterns. They failed to build cisterns that could hold living water.

The experience of the children of Israel is not unknown today. There are many, in the name of religion, who are building broken cisterns. They have chosen the materials that are not approved by God. They have thought to build by the pattern of the world. They have forgotten that the children of Israel in the end lost all because they had rejected God as their fountain of living waters. They want only to build so the world will approve, forgetting that it is God's

approval that will mean most in the end. The world does not hold the key to eternal life; God does.

It is dangerous for any soul to reject the living water offered by God through Jesus Christ and it is dangerous to build a cistern that will not hold Spiritual water. It is a lack of wisdom to build as the world would dictate.

At the wedding at Cana, when Jesus turned the water into wine, He called for empty, stone vessels. These vessels did not leak. Jesus had the servants pour in the water that they might draw off the wine. Those vessels would illustrate how our lives and our bodies should be clean, empty vessels awaiting the filling of the living water, that we might produce the fruit of the vine for His service. We should not be broken cisterns but willing vessels.

Are your cisterns able to hold the living water?

M.C.Cook

WISDOM

"Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life." Proverbs 4:13.

In the complicated world we live in today, it is important that every Christian be rooted and grounded with Godly wisdom. In a society that falls victim to Satan's trap of gradual acceptance how can we know how to make rational decisions without Godly wisdom?

Scripture tells us that "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." Proverbs 4:7. We not only need to "get wisdom" but we also need to take fast hold and let it not go.

Many sinful things today are accepted or ignored, and the seriousness of sin is looked at rather nonchalantly.

God's word would indicate to us two types of wisdom, the wisdom of the world and the wisdom which is God inspired.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is

written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?" I Corinthians 1:18-20.

It was the sinful wisdom of this world that Eve used to evaluate God's command in the garden. First, Eve reasoned that the tree was good for food, which was an appeal to appetite, or lust of the flesh. Next, Eve reasoned that it was pleasant to the eyes, or the lust of the eyes. Next, Eve reasoned that the forbidden fruit was to be desired to make one wise, and the word "desired" gives the idea of coveting and appeals to the pride of life. Eve's evaluation made sense alright except for one major problem: God had forbidden it.

Wisdom and Obedience

"Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgements, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you. Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I commanded you. Your eyes have seen what the Lord did because of Baal-peor: for all the men that followed Baal-peor, the Lord thy God hath destroyed them from among you. But ye that did cleave unto the Lord your God are alive every one of you this day. Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; **FOR THIS IS YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING** in the sight of the nations,..." Deuteronomy 4:1-6.

How often do we shun and refuse wisdom and instruction? Even though God's word tells us that, "Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh." Proverbs 1:20,24-26.

We see the foolishness and folly in the wisdom of men when the Bible was removed from the public school system. Yet you may take all the Bibles you want into the prisons after these poor

deprived children grow up with no Godly teaching.

Even among out present day churches we see a falling away and taking a position of compromise. May our own beloved brotherhood never compromise with the world and it's vain wisdom! Let us hold the fort!

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Romans 13:11.

Rise o my soul, pursue the path by ancient worthies trod;

Aspiring, view those holy men who lived and walked with God

Though dead they speak in reasons ear and in example
live

Their faith and hope, and mighty deeds, still fresh instruction
give.

Lord may I ever keep in view the patterns thou hast given

And never forsake the blessed road that led them safe to
heaven.

My hope and prayer for all is that Wisdom would accomplish
her perfect work.

Brother Stephen G. Aldinger

2000 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

SATURDAY P.M.

Bro. Paul Skiles opened. I Corinthians 3.

Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson. Daniel 4:1-5, 16. Using Downtime Wisely. Everything for Nebuchadnezzar was going fine at first. We need to trust in God and not get out of control. Use down time wisely. God hates pride. Pride goeth before destruction. A man's pride will bring him low. Give God the glory and praise Him when He is there to help us. What do we do with our down time? King Nebuchadnezzar had very much pride in his life, forgetting God. I Cor. 11:34. We don't want to be Worldly. We need to judge ourselves. Are we living true lives? He who humbles himself will be

exalted. We need to surrender our strong will, ask forgiveness and confess our faults. Be willing to ask for prayer. Be able to apologize when we make a mistake. David said, "Create in me a clean heart." Always give praise in all things in our life. Meditate in the Word of God day and night. Surrender to God and the battle of life is won.

Bro. Dennis Myers. I Corinthians 6:19-20. Your Body, His Temple. God made our bodies. Your body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost. Pro. 4:13. In Exodus 25, Moses was to build a Temple which was perfect to follow. II Chron. 7:1-3. God was pleased with Moses building the Temple. We are the body of God's Temple. Are we living our own way or God's way? Are we listening to the Holy Word as it speaks to us? Prepare our bodies and minds to live a more Holy life for God. Listen to the instructions of God to prepare our lives to meet God when we leave this life. Matt. 5:38-44. Satan misplaces things in our life at times. Acts 2:1-4. God wants our life to be pure for Him. Live peaceably with all men. God said, "All things are possible." God wants to dwell in us. He will bless our lives. Be a separate people and God will be with us. Our body is His Temple. Glorify God. Has God got a grip on your life? Do you give Him praise and honor? Is your body God's Temple?

SATURDAY EVENING

Bro. Warren Smith opened. Hebrews 12:1-2. Our witness is important for the Lord; let brotherly love continue.

Bro. Thomas St. John. Isaiah 61:1-3. Liberty. John 8:34-36. A young boy grew into teens. The second young boy was free to spend. The second young boy was taught to live a good life. These two young men were forced into prison. The first young boy took with him the State. The other boy decided to live for God. A teenage girl had guidelines to follow. The other girl lived an immoral life. She grew weary of living this worldly life. The other girl went out into the world in the bondage of sin. Do you know the freedom from the bondage of sin? Are we enjoying the liberty over sin? The just shall live by faith. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty and freedom. Our daily living is to obey Christ's teachings. Should we obey Christ's teachings? God's law is our guide. We become joint heirs of Jesus Christ. Self-rule brings destruction. In

the church we desire liberty of Jesus Christ. Be separate from the world when we build for our soul. Gal. 1:3-6. We want to build on the solid rock and live for Jesus. We want to stay with God's Word and build on the Rock.

SUNDAY A.M.

Bro. Harley Flory. Joshua 7:22. Behold It Was Hid In His Tent. Achan had seen the glory of the Lord. He has a sincere willingness to work for the Lord. Achan realized he did wrong. He yielded to temptation. Achan did very wrong for hiding the silver and gold. Adam and Eve were not to eat of the fruit from the special tree in the garden. Eve failed and ate of the true knowledge of good and evil. Eve took of the tree and did eat. Adam and Eve hid themselves. They were hiding from sin, in man's way to escape. God knew what was in that garden. The sin of Achan spoke to all the nation. Achan was supposed to give the silver and gold to the Lord. Achan committed a great sin. What do we have in our tent that is not pleasing to God? Are we building our tent on Jesus Christ? Let us be careful and build our tent to please our Heavenly Father.

Bro. Ray Reed closed. Ecclesiastes 12:1-3. Fear God and keep His commandments.

SUNDAY P.M.

Bro. Paul Stump opened. James 4. We should have the desire to serve the Lord. Satan is the enemy of God. Draw nigh to God. We need to do good. Love our enemies.

Bro. David Skiles. Luke 24:13-25. How Is Your Vision? People of the Burning Heart and People of the Seeing Eyes. It's wonderful when we can see. Will we be citizens in Heaven? Christ was revealed to them. He opened their hearts. People with a burning heart may do things that sound impossible. The Lord Jesus was a person of passion. Maybe some of us have suffered with a burning heart. We may need a closer walk with Jesus. Hear the mercy of God and repent. Live true to God. Do we feel deeply for the Lord? Jesus said, "Go and teach all nations." Jesus said, "Come unto me." "Follow me" are words of passion. Let our hands be helping hands. Jesus said to Peter, "Feed my sheep." "Feed my Lambs."

Jesus saw the children and wants them to be remembered in the Lord.

Bro. Dennis St. John. Philippians 1:1-11. Great Expectations. We all have a picture of life. We could lose our faith. We have a vision of the souls of the world. God teaches us truths. Behavior is an indication of the heart. Satan is trying to look for a chance to get into our life. Culture and occupation can affect the church. Be careful of our involvement in our cultures.

Bro. Virgil Leatherman closed. Our hearts and eyes burn in this day's world. Where there is no vision, the people perish.

MONDAY A.M.

Bro. Jeremiah Johnson. I John 2:12-17. Fathers, Young Men, Children. We need to keep growing. Rejoice that our sins are forgiven. Rom. 8:14. I Cor. 3. We must feed on God's Holy Word and not on milk. We need to move on, young men and women. It takes good ability to move on and overcome Satan. Submit yourselves one to the other. Become strong in our Spirits. Build your life on the rock so it will stand. God's Word abides in us. Keep moving, don't be as little children. God has given us Spiritual Power. Be more like Jesus. Stand for the right. God is speaking. Will you listen?

MONDAY P.M.

Bro. Paul Skiles opened. Job.

Bro. James Eberly. Matthew 7:21. Many people are trying to follow Jesus. It's a foolish thing to be a spectator. A spectator is one who is just watching. We need to build up Jesus Christ. Many people are just spectators. Mark 10. We are surrounded with wealth. Mary and Martha invited Jesus into their home. Mary was great to talk to Jesus. Martha wanted Mary to come and help with the big meal. Many times we might think we have need to offer Jesus. Peter wasn't willing to have his feet washed. He was just a spectator. We need to show the world we have confidence in Christ. Christ is calling us to follow Him. God told Abraham to leave his home. We should be willing to work for Christ. Stephen gave his life to follow Christ and teaching others. Are we willing to follow Christ? He that loveth his life will lose it. We should be able to

bear one another's burdens. We should be willing to deny ourselves and serve and follow Jesus.

Bro. David Aungst. I Samuel 17:49. The Little Things. The little boy David killed the great giant with the small stone. I Samuel 15:17. Saul was made king. King Saul finally tried to depend on himself. God wants us to be meek and mild. Put all our faith in God. God knows us all. Fear God and keep His commandments. Little things add up, including sinful things. Be obedient to God and His teachings. Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God? Follow Christ, the straight and narrow way. We should be mighty in doing God's will. God will never leave us or forsake us. Little you, and great and powerful God.

Bro. Dean Shaffer closed.

MONDAY EVENING

Bro. Robert Carpenter opened. Malachi 3.

Bro. Frank Reed. History Of The Dunkard Brethren Church. Bro. Frank gave a short lesson on the events that led to the organization of the Dunkard Brethren Church. He also spoke of some of the events and writings that accompanied the organization. Some of the dates that were important before the Dunkard Brethren organized were these: 1870 — The Vindicator began publication. 1883 — The German Baptist Brethren (later the Church of the Brethren) were now in control after the Old Orders and the Progressives had withdrawn during the two previous years. 1922 — B. E. Kesler began publishing the Bible Monitor. 1926 — The Dunkard Brethren were organized at Plevna, Indiana. During the next several years congregations were organized at various points throughout the United States. There have been losses and gains since that time.

Bro. Milton Cook closed.

TUESDAY A.M.

Bro. Jeremiah Johnson opened. Exodus 7.

Bible Study: Ephesians 4:17-32.

Bro. Dean Shaffer. James 3:13-18. True And False Wisdom. Work out of a good conversation, conduct or behavior or lifestyle.

The Pharisees thought they were in great wisdom. Live a Godly lifestyle. Be not deceived. Make sure your wisdom is living a Godly life.

TUESDAY P.M.

Bro. David Aungst opened. Galatians 6:9. Let us not be weary in well doing.

Bro. Paul Skiles. II Timothy 2:21. The Blessing Of The Lowly Basin. There are vessels to search. Take a look at your own life. Is your vessel a lowly vessel? Are we willing to be a lowly vessel of honor? Matthew 28:19. We are called by God to minister in this world. The lowly basin will have passion. II Corinthians 11:24. Have passion for Christ. I Corinthians 1. Be willing to work for Christ, even though we are not perfect. Are you willing to work for Christ regardless of your weakness of the flesh? Serving the Lord with all humility brings joy to our heart.

Bro. Jeremiah Johnson closed with prayer.

TUESDAY EVENING

Bro. Henry Walker. Matthew 28:16-20. Missionary Message: The Church Triumphant. Go unto all the world and preach the Gospel. Jesus is all power. Jesus gave up His life on the cross. All power was given to Christ.

Sister Alice Heisey

IT'S GONE

Two youngsters came in
from recess the other day.
They had an awful fight
right after play.
———Now a friendship's gone.

A man and woman sat in court
the other day.
Each wanted to go
their separate way.

———Now a home is gone.

Two powerful nations
met in battle the other day.

Such terrible weapons as
were on display.

———Now a nation is gone.

The saints of God went
to council the other day.

Heated words were spoken
from lips of clay.

———Now a church is gone.

Brethren let us work and pray for the peace, preservation, as well as the prosperity of the Lord's work amid the earth-shaking events of the 21st Century.

Brother Paul Hartz

Selected by Brother Lynn H. Miller

from the January 1, 1985 Bible Monitor

KENYA KNOTES

We send Christian greetings across the waves again. "God is good" is a phrase that is often spoken here. It is very true. The Holy Spirit is available to everyone who is willing to listen and follow the instructions that He is trying to impress upon us. I have definitely felt the power of the Holy Spirit for which we thank the Lord. We thank everyone for your prayers.

We would like to continue from last month. In May, Chad our oldest son was privileged to go to Kenya with his Grandparents, Verling and Fern Wolfe. We did miss him at home but he really enjoyed himself there. The Lord blessed us with the opportunity to go to Conference in California. Again the question came if we would be willing to go but our hearts were still healing from the loss of our child and were not sure what the Lord was doing or how He was leading. After Conference the Holy Spirit began to speak quietly

again. Then when Chad came home from Kenya he was excited and thought that he would like to go back again and encouraged us to go also. He would often relate his experiences to us and had the desire to go back. In July my mother, Valeria Sweitzer's health seemed to be failing her and we thought that she would soon go to be with the Lord, but God gave her the strength to continue to live. While she was in the hospital a very close friend and former employee of mine was admitted to the same hospital for a heart attack. He was only thirty-four years old. Our family had become very close friends over the last few years, and they often attended Church at Shrewsbury. He had bypass surgery done and was recuperating well when he had a diabetic attack. He had diabetes since he was three years old. Through the complications of the attack he died and that was hard for us. Then his wife asked me to have the message at his funeral, which they talked about. It was hard to do but God gave us the strength to fulfill his desire. A close friend of his said that the service was the best opportunity for him to witness for the Lord as there were people there that had never gone to church and rejected the invitation to go along to church with him for which we praise the Lord. This left us feeling discouraged but God was still in control. Will continue next month.

As we reflect on the work and activities of the last month, we have continued to see the hand of God upon us here. We really missed being at Conference and seeing and visiting with every one. We thought of the activities at Conference and sent a lot of prayers to the throne for the Conference, the church here was praying also. We thank everyone who sent us their reports and gleanings from Conference.

I have been kept quite busy meeting people, counseling people and trying to assist people in numerous ways. I also did quite a lot of preaching and teaching. We were privileged to have Brother Kenton and Andrew Miller come to spend some time with us and to help with some of the work here at the mission house. We also picked up a cycle for a second mode of transportation, which has been a blessing. It uses a lot less fuel than the van and makes it easier to get back into some of the water projects. Brother Kenton has been a real blessing to us and the church has enjoyed his teaching. They would like to tie a BIG chain to his leg so he cannot

go home. He has been a real asset to us as he is free to do the work that I never seemed to have the time to accomplish.

The interest in the church continues to grow and there is a visitor in services most of the time. We shared with the congregation the report from the Board in a council meeting and that made them to rejoice. We were able also to deal with a few of the problems. There are still some hurdles to cross but by God's Grace and the help of the Holy Spirit we will be able to cross them, also. There seems to be more openness and acceptance of others in the church. I have continued teaching the importance of Godly Fathers leading their families. Their culture may be different but Christ calls us to a higher standard in raising a Godly family. We have seen some that are ready to step out and be different and follow God's direction for their lives. Continue to pray that God will have His way in their hearts and that Jesus will be glorified. We thank everyone for their prayers, e-mail and letter support. It means a lot to us to know that you are supporting us. May God abundantly bless you for your faithfulness.

In His Service,
Brother Merle E. Sweitzer

Kenya in June

Greetings in Jesus, from Kenya. June has been a very busy time. The weather has been rather dry the beginning of the month. So therefore our electric has to be rationed, because of the power source comes from a dam in Nairobi and it is really dry there. It was supposed to be off every day from 6:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M., except for Sunday, it was to be on all day. As of now one day it is off 6:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Then the next day it's off 1:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. It's hard to try to figure out a pattern it's so inconsistent, but that's what newspapers say it's supposed to be. At this time we are receiving rain quite often, for which we are so grateful. The gardens are really growing and everything is nice and green.

We took two trips to Nairobi. On the way home we stopped at the Lamp & Light Mission. They were having a guest speaker that night from Homestead, Florida. So we decided to spend the evening with them. Ludlow Walker was the speaker. We were so surprised to see him in Kenya. We had just been to his church in January to

see the Gospel Echoes team. The Lord works in mysterious ways. We had a great time of fellowship with the believers there.

The second trip was to pick up Brother Kenton Miller and his son Andrew from our home congregation. It was so good to have someone from home. He also brought quite a few supplies from home. So it was like having Christmas in June. Thanks for all the goodies! We also purchased a cycle, which will come in real handy to run errands and check out water projects.

The boys have been busy with errands around the compound, varnishing furniture, gardening, painting and running errands. All four of the boys went with a vanload to build a mud house for one of our sister's mother (Emeldda's). They left here on a Wednesday morning early and arrived back home on Friday evening. They had a real good experience of building the house and a good time of fun and fellowship. On the way home they were involved in an accident, just minor injuries. The front window was knocked out and it was raining. They had to drive an hour and a half in those conditions. We are so thankful for the Lord's protection. Keep the prayers coming.

The needs here are really great. Everyone has used their money to plant their fields. So we have been helping a lot of the members with maize, for food. We have also distributed some to the other congregations. As we go to the congregations to pass it out to the members we always have some from the community with their bags, too. It is so hard to refuse them. We trust they will seek the Lord for the needs in their lives, the true living bread.

We were privileged to have the Chapcornishwa Church come for a visit. We had them over one Friday evening. There were eleven women, six babies and two men. We made them beef vegetable soup and three gallons of African tea. We had a real great evening of fellowship, singing and devotions. They brought us gifts of appreciation, a nanny goat and a kid and a dozen eggs. They are the most grateful people.

We trust the Lord will bless you as you serve Him.

In His Love!

Sister Cindy Sweitzer

WHAT IS THE WORTH OF A SOUL?

Mark 8:35-36, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Every man, woman, and child upon the face of this earth has a soul that shall live forever in one of two places. This is an irrefutable fact. As Christians, we must have a burden for the souls of mankind. David Brainerd, who preached the Gospel to the Delaware Indians in the early 1700's, said this: "I care not where I live, or what hardships I go through, so that I can but gain souls to Christ. While I am asleep, I dream of these things. As soon as I awake, the first thing I think of is this great work. All my desire is the conversion of sinners, and all my hope is in God."

John Hyde, a missionary to India one hundred years ago, also had a burden for souls. He said, "Father, give me these souls, or I die."

John Harper, pastor of D. L. Moody's church in the early 1900's, died on the Titanic. As the great ship sank, John Harper was leaning against a rail pleading with a young man to come to Christ. Four years after Titanic sank a young Scotsman arose in a meeting in Canada and said, "I am a survivor of the Titanic. When I was drifting alone on a spar that awful night, the tide brought Mr. John Harper near me. 'Man,' he said, 'are you saved?' 'No,' I said, 'I am not.' He replied, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.' The waves bore him away, but they brought him back a little later and he said, 'Are you saved now?' 'No,' I said, 'I cannot honestly say that I am.' He said again, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.' and shortly after he went down. There, alone in the night, with two miles of water under me, I believed. I am John Harper's last convert."

Do we, collectively as a church, and individually as members of the body of Christ, have a burden for the souls of mankind? Do we pray daily for the souls of our neighbors and loved ones as Christ prayed for His disciples? Do we as a church have an out-reach for souls? Do we tell others that Jesus loves them and that we care whether they end up in heaven or hell? If we believe, as the Bible

says, that a soul is worth more than the whole world, we will.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

ASKING THE WRONG QUESTIONS

"But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes." II Timothy 2:23.

When an individual is inquiring about the things of God it has been said that there is no such thing as a dumb question. There is a certain amount of truth to this statement. No one should be made to feel foolish because some portion of the Word of God seems to be difficult. In fact, no matter how long we have been serving the Lord there are probably portions of Holy Scripture with which we still struggle. There is a great difference between asking a question because of genuine interest or searching and asking a question with the intent of escaping the demands of God. We believe the Apostle Paul had the latter in mind when he wrote the opening verse to Timothy.

There are those who question the Creation account. In their mind science has supplied solid evidence that cannot be refuted. We have to admit that many things about God and Creation are impossible to truly comprehend. That a being had no beginning is beyond the mind of mortal man. Therefore to ask, "Where did God come from?", is a foolish question. The Bible says that God is from everlasting to everlasting and we have to accept that. At the same time those who question the existence of God in favor of humanistic evolution fail to truly deal with the question of where life came from. It is not possible to really understand how God spoke and all plants and animals were formed. Therefore to question this is foolish. But to believe that life spontaneously evolved also takes a great step of faith but is not to be questioned, according to modern science adherents.

The question, "Did God really create in six literal days?", is a foolish question because it brings doubt on the Word of God. In reality, it takes no more faith to believe in a literal six day creation

than it does to believe in theistic evolution which requires hundreds or even millions of years for the world and its inhabitants to be formed. In fact, this theory leaves more questions than answers.

When mankind questions the miracles of the Bible they are foolish questions. To deny the miracles leaves us with a God no more powerful than common man. It denies that God rules and over-rules in the affairs of man and the universe. The questioning of the virgin birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ leaves us without a Savior.

The Apostle Paul says that many questions are not only foolish but unlearned. To answer questions about what we have just discussed requires a study of the Word of God. When we think of learning we usually think of going to school. Normally, it is good for a child to have a good education. Home schooling is becoming increasingly popular and may have many benefits. Attending a Christian school may be a good alternative to public schools. But, unfortunately, there are some Christian schools that may cause children to question the faith of their parents. In many instances the only practical solution to educating the children may be to send them to public schools. No matter where the children receive their education parents should accept the responsibility of grounding their children in the Word of God. They should be made aware that the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. That true wisdom and knowledge is to be found on the pages of sacred Scripture.

Within the church we are often asking the wrong questions. One of the questions frequently put forth by our Anabaptist and Pietistic forefathers was, "Did it come from the world or the Church?" Today the questions are usually quite different. "Will it keep someone out of Heaven?" "Is it really necessary to obey that church teaching?" "Many do not practice our mode of dress, aren't they saved too?" "Are we required to obey rules and regulations not found directly in Scripture?" "Is our practices hindering church growth?" "Will we lose our youth if we require too much of them?" Are questions such as these that gender strife?

This chapter from which this verse was taken includes much instruction and warning. We would encourage you to read the entire chapter. Then ask yourself if you accept the admonishment or

question the need of many of them. It is never right to question the Word of God.

Brother James M. Hite
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Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

I LOST TWO BUTTONS IN A BATTLE WITH A DEMON

I never knew that demons were stronger than man until after I experienced demonic powers in a battle, which ended with me losing two buttons of my shirt. I attended a funeral of my wife's aunt who passed away on June 26, 2000. Because of unavoidable conditions and circumstances, the burial was postponed to Sunday, the following day.

My wife and I arrived at the funeral on Friday evening. That night we rested, listening to the gospel songs on the radio. The body arrived at home on Saturday morning from Nairobi after a long impatient wait. One of the factors that delayed the arrival of the dead was that one of the ladies, a niece to the dead, had been possessed by a demon that never wanted the body to reach home — a place of burial.

On Saturday night I was given a chance to preach. I gave a two hour sermon, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:20. At the end of the sermon people found themselves in conditions, which they never expected. They were praying loudly, crying, and weeping. Some found themselves down doing things that the spirit of God led them to do. The center of attraction was Judith, who had a fifteen hour period of unconsciousness.

In the beginning her situation was ignored by many people. Some people said that she had been shocked by her aunt's death. Others said she was sick and she should be taken to the hospital. But her sister, who had been along with her from Nairobi, said that Judith was possessed with a demon. She needed a spiritual Christian to pray for her.

I was slow in action but her condition grew very serious. She was thrown on the ground so severely that people were left with their mouths agape. One sister shouted, "Pastor, Pastor, Pastor.

Please come and help. My sister is dying!" I am not a pastor but in this situation anybody who preaches is regarded as a pastor. I responded and took a step of faith and walked towards her.

It was behind a house where I found Judith lying on the ground struggling with an invisible creature. She was very strong, seeming to have extra strength and energy. She was yelling, screaming, and howling. Nevertheless she kicked the air like a dying horse. She threw up her hands rolling on the ground as if a colony of ants were biting her in the stomach.

I cast a glance of mercy at her. Then I gained some strength and power from Jesus Christ and became as bold as a lion. I took a step of faith and went down to her and laid both hands on her, one on her head and the other one on her body. As soon as she felt my hands on her, she tried to sit up and grabbed my shirt and turned me sideways. I was surprised at how much strength this young lady had. Her response made me sense danger and I applied force to her. In this struggle two of my buttons popped off. Immediately I realized that things were not as I expected. So I pulled myself together and prepared for the worst. Then I called on the name of Jesus, the only begotten Son of the living God. All of a sudden I believe that Jesus came down and helped me hold the lady down on the ground. When I was sure that she was tightly and helplessly lying on the ground I then offered the following prayer:

"Father in the name of Jesus,

I commit this dear sister into your hands,

Myself I am not able to handle this situation.

I need your assistance.

I therefore take authority in the name of Jesus,

To render powerless all demonic powers.

I command all evil spirits in this sister,

To leave her now,

In the name of Jesus.

I break all curses upon this sister,

In the name of Jesus.

May she receive peace now,

In the name of Jesus.

Receive peace in the name of Jesus.

Receive peace, receive peace, receive peace."

Every time I mentioned Jesus in my prayer she lost strength and cooled down slowly. Later she calmed down completely. I then told four men who were there, to carry her into the house and to lock her in a room to rest. She stayed in the room from 4:30 P.M. until the following Monday morning around 9:00 A.M. All was well with her. Before I left for Kapenguria, someone was sent to call me to go and thank God for all that He had done for that sister. I thanked God as Sister Judith asked for salvation, which she received that day in tears.

This event reminded me of one man in the Bible who lived in the country of Gadarenes and dwelled in the tombs with an unclean spirit; and no man could bind him, no, not even with chains. But when he met Jesus, demons came out of him and he was made whole. Mark 5:1-14.

Brother James A. Musumba
Box 658
Kapenguria,
Kenya E. Africa

HOLD THEM A LITTLE CLOSER

I pray you never walk through
The agony I've known
I pray that all your little ones
Will stay until they've grown.
I pray that you can really hear
My brokenhearted cries
So you will know the anguish
When a child dies.

I pray it makes you hold them
Closer to your breast
And savor every moment
As if it were the best.

For none of us can ever know
How soon they will be gone
And all we'll have are memories
To hold us in the dawn.

Oh dear and tired mother
Of rambunctious little lambs
Do not grow weary of washing
And helping little hands.
Remember that these precious ones
May not be with us long
And we will have to suffer
Such pain when they are gone.

So when you cry at one more day
Of toys spread on the floor
Imagine if they weren't there
To mess up anymore.
Think of all those precious times
You'll miss and wish you had
You'll see those things that irked you so
They weren't all that bad.

Hold them closer for awhile
And stroke their silky hair
And hug them gently once for me
I wish that I were there.
For as I cry out for my son
Who cannot feel my touch
My heart cries out to tell you all
You can never love too much.

-Vickilynn Haycraft
Selected by Sister Terry Scofield

WHEN YOU NEED A FRIEND

As you got up this morning, I watched you and hoped you would talk to me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion, or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday. But I noticed you were too busy trying to find the right outfit to put on and wear.

I waited again. When you ran around the house getting ready. I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello. But you were too busy.

At one point, you had to wait fifteen minutes with nothing to do except sit in a chair. Then I saw you spring to your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip.

I watched as you went about your business and I waited patiently all day long. With all your activities, I guess you were too busy to say anything to me. I noticed that before lunch you looked around. Maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, that is why you didn't bow your head. You glanced three or four tables over and you noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate. But you didn't. That's okay.

There is still more time left and I have hope that you will talk to me. Even yet, you went home and it seemed as if you had lots of things to do. After a few of them were done you turned on the TV. I don't know if I like TV or not. Just about anything goes there and you spend a lot of time each day in front of it, not thinking about anything; just enjoying the show.

I waited patiently again as you watched TV and ate your meal. But again you didn't talk to me. You did what you had to do. At bedtime I guess you felt too tired. After you said goodnight to your family you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That's okay because you may not realize that I am always there for you. I've got patience. More than you will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well.

Because I love you so much. A long time ago, I left a wonderful place called Heaven and came to earth. I gave it up so that I could be ridiculed and made fun of. And I even died so you wouldn't

have to take my place. I love you so much that I wait everyday for a nod, prayer, thought, or a thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one-sided conversation. Well you are getting up again and once again I will wait with nothing but love for you; hoping that today you will give me some time.

Have a nice day!

Your friend,

Jesus

Selected by Brother Donald Clapper

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

Psalms 101:6, "Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me."

From recent news we learn that there are over one million surveillance cameras being used in England to observe its populace. These cameras can be found on street corners, in stores, and anywhere people gather. Crime has been reduced by ninety-five percent in areas so monitored. The cameras are not limited to the big cities, but are even found in very rural areas. The success of these measures has caused other governments, including the United States, to look into installing their own cameras. This means that, perhaps soon, we will have to put on our best face because Big Brother will be watching.

Why the concern? Most banks and many stores are equipped with cameras and we hardly take notice any more. We only bring this up because our government is turning into a benevolent dictatorship, watching our every move. The bank and store monitors are only connected to video equipment. The ones in England are centered at the local police department.

It only goes to show that if people know they are being watched they will be far less likely to commit a crime. The scriptures tell us that our every move is indeed being watched, not by a camera, but by a loving God who wants only the best for us. Perhaps many years ago more people believed this and acted accordingly. Today, with a rampant disregard for all things spiritual, the world can

only be kept in line by threats and police measures.

Someday God will judge the whole earth. All deeds, whether good or bad, will be recorded and the books will be opened. Perhaps you think you are getting away with sin, but unless it is repented of and put under the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, it will be played back to you word-for-word, just as the police could use the video taped evidence to convict you.

The Scriptures tell us, "...for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh." (Matthew 24:44) There is a greater punishment for sin than can be meted out by the earthly authorities. Matthew 11:28 says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." This tells us that there is a rest for all those who confess their sins and come to Jesus. If you have not already done so, you need to trust Christ as your Saviour. He will take you under His wing and take care of your sin problem. Not only that, but He will give you a heavenly home where sin and carnality will be no more.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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Newmanstown, PA 17073

FALSE RELIGION IN 2000

TRUE RELIGION has always been plagued by imitations. We do not have to read long into the Old Testament to realize that the true prophets were not the only ones prophesying.

False prophets came on the scene who relished in making false claims of revelations and were able to deceive many.

Ezekiel, one of God's true prophets, was horrified at the sight of those who had become an expert at developing a false comfort in God's people.

Ezekiel 13:3 says, "Thus saith the Lord God; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!" Ezekiel stood alone against these false prophets. They did not want to hear of righteousness and their impending judgment, but were busy prophesying of peace, prosperity and a life of ease.

Ezekiel was also busy calling the people to humility and repentance. He tried to prepare them for the coming judgment of the Lord.

Many of the worldly church leaders obtain huge followings by preaching a false sense of security. They convince the people that the husband's first wife, if a divorcee, is only a mistress to her husband and that he is free to divorce her and get another wife. They encourage lying as an act that must be done in today's society to advance in this world. They teach that changing your style of dress, your style of living and your convictions periodically make for a strong citizen in the churches of today.

The false prophets of today are preaching and prophesying imaginations of their own hearts and are lulling the people to destruction.

Are we afraid of what people might say?

Are we willing to speak out against false religion?

Where are the true prophets who are willing to take a stand and preach against false religion?

Who is willing to stand in the gap? The Lord is willing to aid us, yes, He will carry us through!

The true ministers of the Church of Jesus Christ have a weighty load to bear in keeping out the evils that spring up around us.

In these latter days of deception, we must do as Isaiah 58:1 tells us, "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

We, as followers of God, should be on our guard to keep the faith, help the weak and do all of His commandments so that we can have the inner peace of being more like the Master and being able to enter the pearly gates into the city!

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits." Matthew 7:15-16a.

A servant for Christ,
Shirley Frick

IF WE COULD ONLY

If we could only live a life like Jesus wants us to,
This would be a better place for me, and even you!
If we could all humble ourselves and cast aside all pride,
And yield ourselves unto His Word — and walk close by Christ's side.
Then I am sure that we would find our lives would be pure bliss,
Our trials here would seem so small; who could want more than this?
If we could only trust Christ more, and know that He knows best,
What it takes to make us stronger, so we could pass each test.
Then we would surely have more love in our hearts like Jesus had,
And I am sure that only good would overcome all bad.
If we could have a deep desire to serve our Lord and King;
We'd not have hate for anyone...O' what a glorious thing.
Then we'd be known as we are known when this frail life is o'er;
So let us serve our Lord while here and meet on heaven's shore.

Written by Sister Irene Stout — October 1985
Selected by Shirley Frick

THE ARMOUR OF THE LORD

The Armour of the Lord
Gives me protection and victory.
The Armour of the Lord is the best
A Christian can ever have.
It makes me to be strong in the Lord
As to stand against the wiles of the devil.

When my brother smote me on the right cheek
I turned unto him the other cheek to smile.
When he took my coat I gave him my cloak too.
When he compelled me to go with him a mile,
I went with him two miles.

For I wrestle not against flesh and blood.

The Armour of the Lord is not carnal.
No spears, guns, arrows and man made weapons.
The Armour consist of spiritual weapons
Made against principalities and powers,
And the rulers of darkness of the world
And spiritual wickedness in high places.

When I took the Armour of God with me,
I stood still in the evil days.
And after all I am standing in Christ.
When Satan wanted me to lie
And give false witness against my neighbor
My loins were girded with truth.

Satan threw wiles of wickedness to me,
Despising my youth and my young age,
I was discouraged, persecuted and accused falsely.
I found myself rejected, forsaken and humiliated
Because of salvation, salvation, salvation, but
I had a breastplate of righteousness and gospel of peace.

Sickness and poverty attacked me all the day long,
My enemies seeketh my soul,
And rewarded me evil for good.
I went through the valley of the shadow of death,
But with the shield of faith I was able
To quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
And all my enemies were confounded and put to shame.

The Armour of the Lord hath given me victory,
With the helmet of salvation and
The sword of the spirit I stepped and treaded
On serpents and scorpions and over
All the power of the enemy and his demons.

By praying always and supplication in the Spirit.

Brother James and Sister Emelda Musumba
P.O. Box 658
Kapenguria, E. Africa

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, Bro. Jim Meyers will be holding revival meetings at the Grandview, Missouri congregation, August 20 through 27. Services on Saturday will be at 11:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M. and Lovefeast Services at 6:00 P.M. The Lord's Day services will be at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Please come and worship with us.

Sister Jolene Andrews, Cor.

MC CLAVE, COLORADO

Lord willing, the McClave Congregation is planning to hold Revivals, September 17 through 24, 2000. A Lovefeast service is planned for September 23. We look forward to Bro. Bob Lehigh sharing with us the Word of God. We welcome you to join with us during this week of opening our hearts to a closer walk with our Heavenly Father.

Sister Arlene Stamy, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2000

September 3 - Pursuing The Things That Make For Peace - Romans 14:14-23.

1. What are the things which make for peace?
2. Explain the phrase, "For whatsoever is not of faith is sin".

September 10 - The Root Of Jesse Reigns Over The Gentiles - Rom.15:1-13.

1. Why is like mindedness so important?
2. How may we abound in hope?

September 17 - Paul's Air: Gentle Obedience To Christ - Romans 15:14-21.

1. Why was Paul the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles?
2. Why did Paul strive to preach the Gospel where Christ had not been preached before?

September 24 - Paul's Travels And Travails - Romans 15:22-33.

1. Why did the Gentiles make a contribution to the poor saints at Jerusalem?
2. What is "The fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ"?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2000

September 3 - Foolishness - Psalm 53:1-6, Prov. 14:9, Prov. 28:26, Luke 11:39-40.

1. How does God describe those who do not believe in Him?
2. How do the foolish view sin?

September 10 - Fishers Of Men - Matthew 4:16-25.

1. How do we become fishers of men?
2. Why were the multitudes of people following Jesus?

September 17 - Thoughtfulness - Jos. 1:8-9, Psalm 4:4-5, Psalm 19:13-14 I Tim. 4:14-15.

1. Why should we meditate upon God's Word?
2. To what should we wholly give ourselves?

September 24 - Enemies - Prov. 24:17-18, Prov. 25:21-22, Matt. 5:43-45, Rom. 12:20.

1. How should we react when our enemy stumbles or falls?
2. How did Jesus say we are to treat an enemy?

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I RESOLVE

Now I resolve with all my heart,
With all my pow'rs to serve the Lord;
Nor from his precepts e'er depart,
Whose service is a rich reward.

O be his service all my joy!
Around let my example shine,
Till others love the blest employ,
And join in labors so divine.

Be this the purpose of my soul,
My solemn, my determined choice,
To yield to his supreme control,
And in his kind commands rejoice.

O may I never faint nor tire,
Nor, wand'ring, leave his sacred ways;
Great God, accept my soul's desire,
And give me strength to live thy praise.

-Anne Steele

INVESTMENTS

We hear much about the stock market and other investments. It is an important part of the American economic scene. Many are interested in the stock averages. These stock averages seem to indicate the soundness of the economy. If the averages go up there is a feeling that the economy is gaining and that business will prosper in the foreseeable future. If the averages make a decline there is a sense of panic that the economy may be failing and bad times will soon be upon us.

Investments are necessary to fuel the growth of industry and services needed to provide the needs of consumers. When a company first starts up, it usually is owned and totally controlled by one person, a family or a small group of partners. If the company is successful, there may be a desire to expand the company. If those controlling the company do not have the resources to meet this financial need, it is decided to sell stock in the company. This brings in the money needed to make the desired expansion. There will be more people involved in the ownership of the company. While the original investors may retain control of the company, later as more outside investors are brought in, control may be exercised by outside bankers and investors.

We hear stories of those who invested in companies when they were small start-ups. They have become wealthy from their foresight in making that seemingly risky investment many years earlier. We also hear of those who did not make that investment, but now

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wish they had.

There are other investments besides financial ones that are a part of our daily lives. As we live in this world, we are continually investing our time in various activities and projects. We usually do not think of our time spent doing these activities as an investment, but it sure is. The time given to us will only be ours to use one time, so we must use it wisely. If we use our time for those things that are not truly important than our investment will have been wasted. If fun is the chief concern of our lives than we will have given up our unrecalable time to pursue those things that do not make a serious foundation for our lives. Recreation has a place in our lives to revive us after we have been stressed and strained by the weightier matters of life, but it should only be a small part of our lives.

Not only do we invest our time, but also our financial resources in various interests in our lives. We can use our money for good causes or for unworthy causes. For most, our finances are not easily accumulated. It takes much labor and planning to have money beyond the needs of daily living. Of course the style in which we expect to live will also affect what finances are necessary for a good life. If we must have every new gadget and labor-saving device that comes on the market, then we may very well find a shortfall in our finances. If our money is used for maintaining a status among our neighbors and friends then we may very well find ourselves living beyond our means. If our financial resources are used for the necessities of life so we will have money left over to invest, we need to be careful in the investments we make.

We are interested in the stories of our forefather's lifestyles. We often wish we could emulate their lifestyles, without giving up too many of the comforts that we have come to expect and enjoy. As much as we might wish for the joys of their lifestyles, are we willing to make the investment necessary to have that lifestyle? Are we as willing as they were to do without some of the latest and fanciest possessions available to us? We certainly can not stop progress in the material and physical world. We would not want to. However, we must study how many of these things we really need. We may have more free time, but how are we going to use that time? Is it going to be used for pleasure or to actually serve the Lord?

The investments we make are important whether of time, money or talents. We need to consider if we are making the best use of what we have been given. God has given us all a certain amount of time. He has allowed us all to have certain financial opportunities. He has also given to each of us certain talents. We need to invest what we have so we can bring the greatest honor and glory to His Holy Name.

Investments keep the American economic system running. The investment of what we have is important in the furthering of the Kingdom of God. We need to invest our time in studying and teaching the Word of God. We need to invest our money in Missions and other worthy projects of the Church. We need to give our talents back to Him, by investing them in His Service.

Are you a successful investor? Have you invested in serving the Lord Jesus Christ?

M.C.Cook

MEDITATIONS ON THE "BIG MEETING"

Another annual conference and its meetings are over. The sermons are preached, the prayers are prayed, the hymns sung, the edification accomplished and hopefully continues.

Since its inception, the annual meeting, as it's been called historically, has been for the purpose of strengthening the church in the practice of doctrines of the New Testament, helping her members make practical application of those principles and doctrines in every day living.

It seems the original meeting was a response to ecumenical meetings which the Brethren had participated in earlier. They felt a need of the counsel of the brotherhood and maintaining unity of spirit and a measure of uniformity of practice.

We would note unity of spirit will lead to uniformity or unity of practice and makes a superior church to one where the procedure is attempted in reverse order. For unity "cometh not with observation," for it does not stand alone as a commodity to be sought out. It is a beautiful condition which exists where and when we have

submitted ourselves collectively to the Holy Spirit as He moves among us.

The Psalmist (in 133) likens it to the oil of anointing spreading over Aaron's body and garments in preparation for service in the Tabernacle of God. Even so, we are prepared to present Christ to a dying world of humanity as we have been overcome of the Spirit and then endowed to unitedly make Christ known. None of us, alone, is blest as Jesus was with every spiritual gift, but together we move not just as His representatives but virtually as His body doing His work.

The Psalmist also makes an analogy with a scene of Mt. Herman, the all encompassing dew descending upon the mountains of Zion. At the Lord's command everything exposed receives the refreshing blessing. Dew appears not in the tempest but in the cool stillness of the night. It refreshes the grass and the creatures partaking thereof with life which only moisture can give. Sufficient moisture is necessary for the functioning of life. To reach the efficiency God intended for His church, we need the dew of unity.

How do we get in the path of the dew of unity? If the unity is to be scriptural, we need to be living in accord with the Word. Psalm 1 says it must be our delight and our counsel must come from those like minded. The result of personal and collective directive of His law is likened to the flourishing of a fruitful tree by a flowing river.

A spirit of independence and self sufficiency are enemies of unity. It leads us to live without regard for others and their feelings, refusing the ministry God has ordained for us through fellow believers. (I Cor. 12) At the same time we neglect the ministry we've been called to do.

This all operates in the realm of God's love which He has bestowed upon us, flowing between us, the evidence thereof showing the world we are His followers. When we choose to love one another as He loved us, the oil of unity can flow over us as bonded body.

Brother Ronald Marks

THOUGHTS ON THE 2000 CONFERENCE

“...be filled with the Spirit; ” Eph. 5:18.

I am always a bit overwhelmed by the size of the crowd at Annual Conference, as we are used to a rather small group. But after the initial shock has passed and we immerse ourselves in what needs to be done and in renewing old and valued acquaintances, there is quite a blessing to be had.

This year we were blessed with the responsibility of a young people's Bible study. Although there were only a few compared to the huge numbers present, we were reminded of Gideon and how his army, though few in number, was chosen. There were those who put their face down to the water to drink, and there were those who dipped the water and brought it to their lips, watching all the time for the enemy. These young folks, though few in number, gave us hope.

Concerning the Leadership Meeting, I was glad for the interest present and for the attitude of caring regarding the needs of the church as a whole. The preaching we heard was inspired. As we spoke to many of the Brethren who were responsible for the messages we could see their earnestness for the Church.

We have reached a crossroads, you see. We could go down one path and end up like most other “churches” in this world: fashionable, Romish, worldly. Or, we could go down the path that has Christ at our head and continue to love and serve Him. One brother said he saw some things that shocked him. We did, also. But likewise we saw some very encouraging things and we have not ceased to thank God for them.

One scripture comes to mind that we dare not forget. Psalm 127:1 says, “Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it:...” From whence does our inspiration come? Is it from God above? The scriptures say that in the last days many will be deceived. II Timothy 3:13-15 says, “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to

make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

I received much inspiration from our time together at Roxbury. We trust that almost everyone else did also. In receiving such a blessing from God it behooves us to bless others. It becomes necessary for each of us to tell another what God has done. Now it is our turn.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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MY FUNERAL VISITATION

My family and I recently attended the visitation at a funeral home for a man in his 60's. He had battled cancer for two years. We stood in line with many others for two and one half hours before we could express our sympathy to the family near the casket.

Many friends, relatives, and church people showed respect in being there. As we were in line outside, slowly moving toward the door, one of our daughters asked wonderingly, “What will the line look like at our own visitation?”

It made me ask myself some questions. Will I have left a lasting good impression with my family, my church, my neighbors, my customers, my community, and so forth, that they would want to pay respect to me and my loved ones that I left behind? Or would my passing just bring a sigh of relief, that now we won't have to listen to her, or work with her, or have her in the neighborhood anymore.

Am I reflecting God's love in all I do? Do I speak well of others, promote a good attitude when working around others, commit my life to Christ and stand up for Him, and do my best in church work? Am I willing to sacrifice my time for Jesus? Do I show a giving attitude for others and seek out their needs? Do I remember to use prayer when there is a need, or do I try something else first?

I will never know what my own visitation will be like. I do know that the life I live here on this earth can determine what respect I gain from others.

"Lord, let me be alive, active and always seeking the good of others. Help me to look beyond the faults of others. Help me to pray for them and seek out the good I can find. Help me to encourage others and lift up the fallen. Help me to find ways to carry some of the weight of their burdens. Help me to show God's love to them. Thank you, Lord. Amen."

God bless you all. I'm so thankful for my church family at home and across the brotherhood. Each one has been important to me and my love goes out to you.

Sister Karen Blocher

WHAT INSCRIPTION WOULD DESCRIBE YOUR QUALITY OF CHARACTER?

Part 2

Continued from June 2000 Issue

A leader's character is certainly important to the leader's effectiveness. Leadership is a combination of strategy and character. However, if you must be without one, be without strategy.

Character is at the crux of a nation's health. The role of character has always been the key factor in the rise and fall of nations. One can be sure our country is no exception to this rule of history. We will not survive as a country because of intelligence but because of our strong character based on The Word of God.

Character is not something that can be bought; it cannot be inherited but it can be formed. Like a potter who shapes clay, a leader is shaped by his character. Also, like a well-made piece of pottery, the shaping of one's character takes time. In our hearts we know that effective leadership is built on solid, uncracked character.

We should each look inside our hearts for the inscription "Sine Cirus." When you look inside yourself, what has the potter inscribed in your heart?

Brother Marion Brooks

STEPHEN'S GREAT SERMON

Acts 7:1-16

We now have the opportunity to carefully analyze Stephen's sermon on the occasion that turned out to be the trial for his life. There is certainly a part of what Stephen spoke that those of the synagogue of the Libertines, and so forth, were not able to resist.

In this message, Stephen covered the time period of the Jewish Nation (actually, from the time before the beginning of the Jewish Nation) until their bondage in Egypt. Stephen was reviewing a portion of history that his listeners knew very well. He began with Abraham, whom they greatly revered.

Note carefully how Stephen was getting his listeners to "hear" his message. He began where they were at. The Jewish people (and especially, the leaders) loved reviewing their history. So Stephen began with their history.

Stephen told how God first appeared to Abraham, when he was still in Mesopotamia. He told how God had called Abraham out of that country, and into the land of the Chaldaeans, where he lived until his father died. After that time, Abraham moved to the land of Canaan. Stephen reviewed how God had promised Abraham the land of Canaan. Yet for many years, Abraham had no children.

Stephen quoted Old Testament Scripture. He used Genesis 15:13 and Exodus 3:12. Then Stephen told how God had fulfilled those prophecies. He told how the Children of Israel came to be in Egypt, and how they were there at the time of the death of Jacob, as well as the rest of the twelve sons of Jacob, whom Stephen calls "our fathers."

Stephen knew the writings of Moses well! We will see later that he also knew the Prophets well! Stephen was well acquainted with the Scripture. This is a good example for us to follow!

Stephen also knew how to apply the Scripture in a way that his hearers got the message. Acts 6:8 says he was "full of faith and power." His detractors were "not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake."

Stephen was full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. What an example for us!

Summary Thought . . . Can you take the challenge of applying Scripture to events of today, as did Stephen? This takes great knowledge of the Scriptures, as well as the anointing of the Holy Spirit to rightly discern the truth. Why not take on this challenge?

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Robert S. Lehig

CHILDREN'S PAGE

I WILL SET NO WICKED THING BEFORE MINE EYES,...

Psalm 101:3

Dean pulled something out of his pocket and glanced at it again.

"What have you got in your hand that you are staring at so hard?" asked his brother, Weldon, as he caught up with Dean.

"It's a book I found lying along the road. There is no name or address in it so it would be hard to find the owner. Someone may have thrown it out the window as they were driving by."

"It looks like a new book, too. It even has colored pictures. Let me see it!" said Weldon as he reached his hand out for the book.

Dean shook his head and stuffed the book back into his pocket.

"How can you be so selfish and mean? I just wanted to see the pictures!"

"The pictures aren't fit to look at," remarked Dean as he walked across the yard. Just then the boy's father drove up the driveway.

"Hi, boys," he called as he stepped from the car. "Mom got supper ready yet?"

"We don't know; we just got back from our walk."

"Why the sour look, Son," asked Father as he glanced at Weldon.

"Dean found a book lying by the side of the road and he is too selfish to let me see it!" grumbled Weldon.

"I told him why. The book isn't fit to read. The pictures aren't decent!" explained Dean.

"Show me the book!" said Father.

After glancing at the book, Father said, "Dean is right. This

book is not a desirable book to have in a Christian home. There is only one place for a book such as this." Father stepped across the room and pitched it in the trash can.

He continued to tell the boys the reason for his action. "I'm glad our church has decided against having television in our homes, because many of the programs have the wrong influence on the minds of those who watch them. These programs are promoted by worldly organizations who teach against Christian principles and create ungodly thoughts, desires and actions. Not only television programs, but also written material, such as books with pictures with appeal to the eye, but can corrupt the mind. I knew a young man who had feasted his mind on the wrong kind of pictures and stories so that when he grew older it was a struggle for him to eradicate the harm done to his life."

"Weldon, you don't know how blessed you are in having a brother who cares enough for you to help shield you from the wrong influences."

Later, the boys heard their little sister singing as she played "Church." She had her dolls lined up and pointing to them, sang,

"Oh, be careful little eyes what you see,
Oh, be careful little eyes what you see,
For the Father up above, He is looking down in love,
So be careful little eyes what you see!"

After family worship their father said, "Boys, be careful what you see, what you hear, what you do. Strive to keep your minds and hearts clean and pure in God's sight. We can't hide anything from God. God sees everything we do." Read Psalm 101:3.

Sister Maxine Surbey

AFRICAN MARRIAGE

Marriage is the agreement between a man and a woman to live together as a husband and a wife throughout their life on earth. In Africa, especially in Kenya, marriage is divided into four types. These include:

(a) Traditional Marriage

(b) Civil Marriage

(c) Local Marriage

(d) Christian Marriage

The above named forms of marriage are all recognized and legalized by the law of Kenya for men and women above eighteen years of age.

(a) Traditional Marriage

In Kenya we have forty-two different tribes speaking different languages. Every tribe has their own form of marriage. In some tribes engagement of the couple is done in their young age. Women are especially engaged to men before they are mature enough to be married. Sometimes there is an engagement shortly before marriage. During this period, some dowry is paid which includes the agreed number of cattle, sheep and goats. When parents of both sides meet they carry out their discussion drinking fermented milk and illicit alcohol. After everything has been done, the man is given a woman by the parents. Then marriage is accomplished.

Some tribes will take both the man and a woman into the field for a battle. They fight and fight and fight. If the man wins, he takes the woman as his wife. And if a woman wins then the marriage is not done. Dowry is refunded in case of divorce.

Today, the majority of the tribes in Kenya have done away with traditional marriage. This type of marriage is basically practiced in areas where the Gospel has not reached. However, dowry is still paid even today. It has become impossible for people to abandon dowry payment. Polygamy is allowed. One can marry as many wives as he can.

(b) Civil Marriage

This type of marriage is solemnized in the District Commissioners office. It does not involve religious ceremony but it is recognized by the laws of the Kenyan Government. Polygamy is also allowed by the Government. In this type of marriage all that is needed is that a man and a woman (whether married or not) will go to the law court to be issued an affidavit card. The affidavit card proves that both the man and a woman have sworn to live together as a husband and a wife. The affidavit card is an evidence to the

court in case of inconvenience. After the card has been taken, the law court will send the couple to the District Commissioner's office to receive a marriage certificate. An appointment is made to collect the marriage certificate in the presence of the District Commissioner and four witnesses. The four witnesses include two best-men and two best-maids. Dowry is not considered in this case. However, some fee is paid for the certificate of marriage.

(c) Local Marriage

This is another type of marriage recognized by the law of Kenya. It is the simplest of all because it does not involve many of these things. No expenses are needed. This is the cheapest marriage in Kenya. Many Kenyans fall into it. This is done anywhere. A man meets a woman and they both agree to live together as a husband and a wife. No witness is needed in this marriage. After they have married the man arranges to meet the woman's parents - to introduce himself. This type of marriage is cheap but dangerous. Many people have gone in for it. The disadvantage of this marriage is that a man can kick out the woman any time and marry another one. Men exchange women like socks. They marry day and night.

Women are deceived with a marriage vow. After a few months the woman is chased away. This made women fight for their rights. A law was made to cover women. Therefore you can not live with a woman for more than one year and still claim that the woman was your girl-friend. This was implemented because in Kenya we have very many fatherless children. They have grown up to be street boys. Later they become dangerous criminals in the government's sight. Nevertheless we never stay with girl-friend in our houses continuously for more than one year or for six years. It is not logic and it is not possible to have children with girl-friend unless accidentally. You cannot have more than one child with a woman then claim that she was just a girl-friend or a prostitute. Prostitutes and girl-friends visit a man once for a while yet a married woman lives in a house with her husband.

I thank God because in all four types of marriage that we have in Kenya, vows are made. A vow is very important because God does recognize them. The book of Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 records that "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it: for he hath

no pleasure in fools. Pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."

Sin is sin. But adultery is unlike other sins. The only way to come out of this sin is to stop committing adultery and live a separate life from sinful relationships. Maybe this is why God does appreciate marriage of both the saved and the unsaved. Our God is very merciful and he recognizes different kinds of marriages, even of the Christians and pagans.

Cultural practices of many countries differ in many ways. Different nations have different traditional beliefs. But all nations are united and brought together with Jesus Christ, Son of God, who shed His blood on the cross for us to receive redemption. We use the same Bible and are led by the same Holy Spirit. No one may claim to have a disadvantage or advantage over the other before God.

May God bless us all as we try to please Him with our good deeds in our daily life, especially in our marriages.

Brother James Musumba
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DIVORCE IS POISON

Divorce is poison
A deadly poison.
It breaks marriages
And kills relationship.

My husband has gone
To where fate takes men.
He's gone and left me a widow
And gone with everything of mine.

My fellow women laugh and rejoice
They laugh with their husbands,
But mine is gone

And has left me a pauper.

My children are orphans
And some are sweet boys.
They never go to school
Because of poverty, poverty, poverty.

My husband divorced me secretly
And went to Nairobi
In the mine of money
I have heard people say he's married again.

My fellow women go to the swamp
To look for perfumes.
Why should I go there
When my husband has gone?

My husband come back
I am missing you dearly,
Come and wipe my tears
And relieve me from loneliness.

I am tired of questions
Bitter questions from your children.
Where is dad? Where is dad?
I don't know how to answer
For my husband is gone.

Divorce is a disease
A chronic disease.
It leads to adultery and fornication.
Divorce eats up a man and a woman
Spoiling good souls and hearts
Required to inherit the kingdom of God.
Wives submit unto your husbands
And husbands honour and love your wives
That we may eradicate divorce.

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THE NEW GOSPEL

There is no doubt that Evangelicalism today is in a state of perplexity and unsettlement. In such matters as the practice of evangelism, the teaching of holiness, the building up of local church life, the pastor's dealing with souls and the exercise of discipline, there is evidence of widespread uncertainty as to the road ahead.

Time is a complex phenomenon, to which many factors have contributed; but, if we go to the root of the matter, we shall find that these perplexities are all ultimately due to our having lost our grip on the Biblical gospel. Without realizing it, we have during the past century bartered that gospel for a substitute product which, though it looks similar enough in points of detail, is as a whole a decidedly different thing.

Hence our troubles; for the substitute product does not answer the ends for which the authentic gospel has in past days proved itself so mighty. The new gospel conspicuously fails to produce deep reverence, deep repentance, deep humility, a spirit of worship, a concern for the church.

Why? We would suggest that the reason lies in its own character and content. It fails to make men God-centered in their thoughts and God-fearing in their hearts because this is not primarily what it is trying to do. One way of stating the difference between it and the old gospel is to say that it is too exclusively concerned to be "helpful" to man - to bring peace, comfort, happiness, satisfaction-and too little concerned to glorify God. The old gospel was "helpful", too-more so, indeed, than is the new-but (so to speak) incidentally, for its first concern was always to give glory to God. It was always and essentially a proclamation of Divine sovereignty in mercy and judgment, a summons to bow down and worship the mighty Lord on whom man depends for all good, both in nature and in grace. Its center of reference is man. This is just to say that the old gospel was religious in a way that the new gospel is not. Whereas the chief aim of the old was to teach men to worship God, the concern of the new seems limited to making them feel better. The subject of the old gospel was God and His ways with men; the subject of the new is man and the help God gives him. There is a world of difference. The whole perspective and emphasis of gospel preach-

ing has changed.

James I. Packer

Submitted by Brother Dean Shaffer

A TIME TO HEAL

"A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up." Ecclesiastes 3:3.

One of the greatest seeming contradiction in the Bible is the wars in the Old Testament, often commanded by God, and the peace position taught by the Lord Jesus Christ. For this reason a large portion of Christianity rejects the teaching of nonresistance. A few reject the wars of aggression and teach that the only "just war" is one of defense. But the majority teach that we should support any war that our country is involved in. Our own historical position is that the Church is not to dictate the military actions of the nation they are a part of. However, neither are Christians to take part in the wars of secular nations.

While we certainly do not claim to have all the answers to the Old Testament war dilemma, we realize that Israel was both a spiritual nation and a political nation. Whereas the Church is only a spiritual nation made up of individuals from many political nations. It would seem as if the Old Testament era was a time to kill while the New Testament era introduced a time to heal.

The church is in a spiritual battle. While we do not literally kill, we do attempt to destroy the powers of evil. A large portion of the earthly church has signed a peace treaty with the powers of evil that we should combat. These "Christians" who take part in carnal warfare with those of differing religions are in error, in our opinion. Those who refuse to do spiritual battle with them are just as much in error. The weapon we carry is the Sword of Truth, the Holy Word of God. Our goal should not be destruction but healing. As Christians we have the most valuable thing on earth to offer. Eternal life through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. To allow those of other religions to believe that they can have this promise by being faithful to what they believe is not charity but spiritual homicide.

In many instances the earthly church has also signed a peace

pact with sinful practices. The type of "healing" they offer individuals compares to a doctor who would prescribe aspirin for an individual with cancer. It might relieve the pain somewhat but there is certainly no healing power. We realize that medical science is limited in what it can accomplish, but the Church can guarantee an individual who has the terminal illness of a sinful lifestyle that "by His stripes are we healed."

In place of healing we have a spiritual epidemic in our midst. The teaching that sin will not keep you out of Heaven is growing in leaps and bounds. Both the "liberals" and the "fundamentalists" have their version of this falsehood.

We are also told there is a time to break down. If we desire to be a part of the true Church we can not go along with modern thought that is contrary to Holy Scripture. Taking a stand on such issues as the prayer veil or covering (which ever term you prefer) can be very divisive in many church circles. Many are of the opinion that it is time to break down those church practices that are not found directly in Scripture. This has certainly caused division among many church groups. The problem arises when decisions are made as to what Scripture demands of us. While we would not be too dogmatic on the issue of cape dresses for sisters, the loss of this practice has resulted in the acceptance of the wearing of slacks and even shorts in some groups. It is usually not long until every one decides what is appropriate in his or her own mind. The loss of the plain coat on brethren has had similar results.

While we can not compromise Truth, this should be a time of healing. One of the greatest needs in the area of healing, in our opinion, is in the area of attitude. It is often very difficult to disagree in love. This should be our goal if disagreement is necessary. It seems we have lost the ability to talk things out to a large degree. Jesus Christ said that we are to love one another. This can only come about by genuine healing.

Let us pray that God would give us wisdom in our spiritual battle and wisdom to know when it is a time to heal.

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SIMPLE PATTERN FOR DAILY LIVING

Men use patterns in drafting, landscaping and building while women use patterns in flower beds and gardening, but mostly in sewing.

A few years back, while listening to some women talking, someone mentioned that their pattern didn't fit them anymore. Another one said, "I like different patterns so I don't have to wear the same dress style Sunday after Sunday.

We, as Christians do need a pattern to follow in our everyday living. Who should our pattern be? As we follow Jesus' life throughout the Bible, we are clearly shown His wonderful pattern and example to us.

We also need to remember that we are setting an example and laying down a pattern for someone else who is watching us. Perhaps the pattern they see in us might be flawed or not clear in some way. Just what kind of pattern are we showing to those around us?

Let's take time to study a pattern for our daily life.

As a sewing pattern takes MATERIAL, so also does the pattern for daily life. The material required is found in Galatians 5:22-23 which is: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness and Temperance. Our material must have good morals that teach us a lesson.

It requires NOTIONS: Sense of Humor, Elasticity, Conscience Pin Prickers, Forbearance, Lip Zippers and Backbone Stiffening.

There are also MEASUREMENTS involved. How wide is your wisdom and understanding? How long is your enduring patience? How deep is your Christian Love?

You see, there are INSTRUCTIONS for sewing our pattern. It is very important to follow the instructions step by step as they are given. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6.

You need to first of all, STUDY YOUR PATTERN: Study your Bible, search diligently in God's Word and you shall find His marvelous truths. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a work-

man that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15.

Diligently PLAN THE LAYOUT: Proceed with prayer upon awakening from thy bed, throughout the day, and upon lying down in the evening hours. "Let all things be done decently and in order." I Cor. 14:40.

Make sure you keep a SEAM ALLOWANCE: Keep on course throughout the day. Don't see how close you can get to the edge, but stay close to the required amount laid out to us by the Master. Your pattern will always come out right if you take the right amount of allowance. "...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." I Samuel 16:7b.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CUTTING: Cut out all unkind criticisms, gossiping, fault-finding and evil enticements.

RUFFLING: Don't get ruffled.....it is not called for in the pattern and will mar a Christian's character.

FACING THE TASK: Set your face toward your Heavenly goal and do your task well. "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works..." Titus 2:7a.

BINDING: "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck." Proverbs 6:20-21.

PRESSING: (the finished product) Press out ALL wrinkles and flaws that could blur your vision in following Christ. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14.

At last, we have the FINISHING DETAIL: May we all be able to say as in II Timothy 4:7-8, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Is our pattern simple and easy to follow? Time may never come again. Do it now. Follow the pattern of our Lord. Oh, that we might have clean hands and a pure heart and WANT to be WILLING to follow the PERFECT PATTERN.....none other than the Master,

the Lord Jesus Christ!

Prayerfully submitted,
Shirley Frick

BIBLE STORY

A VOICE FROM HEAVEN

When Jesus was about thirty years old, the news came to Him that His cousin John was preaching in the wilderness of Judea and baptizing people in the river Jordan. After He heard this He no doubt told His mother that the time had come that He must begin His ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing to which God had called Him. There was little trouble to find where John was because the people thronged to see and hear him. John was clothed in a garment made of camel's hair and with a leather girdle around his waist. He must have had a powerful voice for the crowds that came to him were very large. One day as John was talking, he said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: But He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear." The next day after, Jesus came walking toward him asked John to baptize Him and John refused. "Oh no," he said, "You should baptize me." But Jesus insisted, "Let it be so, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." Jesus had not sins to wash away, but He wanted to set a perfect example for all who should follow Him. If He had not been baptized, others would have had an excuse for saying they did not need to be baptized either: and Jesus knew that would not be good for them.

John at last agreed, and he baptized Jesus in the river Jordan. Just as Jesus came up out of the water, something wonderful happened. The heavens were opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove, and lighted upon Him: and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Now after thirty years of study, prayer and obedience, Jesus was ready to begin His ministry of love. How beautiful it was on this very day, when His real work which He came to do had begun, that His heavenly Father should say to Him, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Just to know the Father loved Him and was pleased with Him, must have meant more to Jesus

than we can imagine.

You like your father to be pleased with you, don't you? This made Jesus happy too. He now had the courage needed to meet any trial that might come in the days ahead.

Brother Rudy Cover

TRUE BELIEVERS DO NOT SHY AWAY FROM OBEDIENCE

"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." Romans 6:22.

IT HAS BEEN QUITE OVERLOOKED IN RECENT TIMES that the faith of Christ is an absolute arbiter!

It preempts the whole redeemed personality and seizes upon the individual to the exclusion of all other claims. Or more accurately, it makes every legitimate claim on the Christian's life conditional, and without hesitation decides the place each claim shall have in the total scheme.

The act of committal to Christ in salvation releases the believing man from the penalty of sin, but it does not release him from the obligation to obey the words of Christ. Rather it brings him under the joyous necessity to obey!

Look at the epistles of the New Testament and notice how largely they are given over to what is erroneously called "hortatory" matter. By dividing the epistles into "doctrinal" and "hortatory" passages we have relieved ourselves of any necessity to obey. The doctrinal passages require from us nothing except that we believe them. The so-called hortatory passages are harmless enough for the very word by which they are described declares them to be words of advice and encouragement rather than commandments to be obeyed. This is a palpable error.

The exhortations in the epistles are to be understood as apostolic injunctions carrying the weight of mandatory charges from the Head of the Church. They are intended to be obeyed, not accepted or rejected as we will. If we would have God's blessing upon us we

must begin to obey!

A. W. Tozer

Selected by Sister Terry Scofield

SPIRITUAL WARFARE ON THE INTERNET

by Wayne Miller, President of Midwest Internet

What is important? That is a question that each of us answers everyday. Our answer can be found in how we prioritize our time and resources, in how we plan our day and how we execute that plan. The answer is evident in our daily activities. Those activities tell us a lot about what we value and what is important to us. Today, more than ever before, it is easy to become consumed by detail, to lose track of what is really important, and what should be consuming our time and resources.

We need to ask ourselves what is important from God's perspective. In His word He tells us "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9KJV)

God values people; you, me, our loved ones, our neighbors, the folks down the street, and the people we work with. He loves all and is not willing that any should perish. The promise that is referred to in 2 Peter 2:9 is of His return: "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, (4) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (2 Peter 3:3-4KJV)

He is not slack concerning His promise to return, but know this: God is not willing that any should perish. Time is short, and the fields ripe unto the harvest.

Satan believes it too! Look what has happened in just the past few years to radio, television, newspapers, magazines and even mail order catalogs. Beautiful skimpily clothed models sell every thing from automobiles to underwear. Sexual innuendo and double-meanings permeate the airwaves and defile the "family hour" on television to the point that it can no longer be legitimately referred

to as the "family hour." The enemy is attacking the family structure, tearing apart God's plan for the family first established in Genesis 1.

The phrase, "walking after their own lusts", found in 2 Peter 3:3 rings true today. Everyone is doing their own thing "in their own way." God's people must not fall prey to Satan's lies.

This is war, spiritual war as defined in scripture: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12NASB

And the spoils of this war are our loved ones, our families, our neighbors, and our friends.

Look at the battlefield: Imagine that there is a room in your home and in that room there is a huge box. It's big and it's sturdy and it's in the middle of the room. Inside this huge box are some of the most disgusting pictures and sexually explicit materials you can imagine. Inside this box are X-rated movies, obscene books, raunchy magazines, just all sorts of filthy material. Since it is in the center of the room and since you don't want it defiling your family, you protect yourself and them by setting guidelines about accessing the material in the box. You will, of course, tell every family member not to look at it. You will tell them of the dangers that are within the box. You even take a large magic marker and walk around the box and write warnings on the sides in large red print: "DANGER! DO NOT LOOK IN HERE."

Be honest. How long will it take before someone sneaks a peek inside? Will one peek be enough? What positive outcome can you possibly expect?

Now imagine that the box is your computer and the source of the material inside is the Internet. The Internet contains material that is unspeakably filthy. Without the appropriate filtering it is easily accessed accidentally or otherwise. Unfiltered Internet access provides a conduit to bring unadulterated smut into the sanctity of your home.

Would any caring, concerned family permit a huge box of smut

as described earlier in the center of their home? Of course not! But unfiltered Internet access is precisely that. There are only two solutions: employ filters to clean it up, or don't have it in your home!

Selected by Brother Paul Stump

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 1, 1940

A HOLY TEMPLE

Charles H. Ness

(I Cor. 3:16-17) The Apostle Paul says, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." In the above reference it is stated that the Spirit of God dwelleth in man. It matters not where men are the temple of God is there, we may gaze up into the sky, we look out across the boisterous sea, we may look out over hill and dale, and yea, we may look down in the very depth of the sea and into the caves of the earth, lo and behold the temple of God is there, but how is it presented is the great question? It is either kept holy or degraded and defiled is the answer, and the result, to him that keepeth it holy, salvation; to him that defileth it, destruction. All men would choose salvation. How keep this temple holy? By studying the Bible, searching the scripture, which is the word of God and submit ourselves to the will of God and keep our bodies in subjection in every activity of life as becometh a child of God.

In our appearance, our conduct, and our conversation, where we are and where we go, where we stop, to a large extent determines how this temple is handled. We need to give diligence, through consideration, and make sure of our calling and our election that we do not fall. By the divine power of God the needed gifts were presented unto us, pertaining unto a holy temple and whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, and that we should add to our faith in Christ Jesus such virtues as would make it fruitful through the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Now "he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar

off, and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." Hence the temple is defiled and the text says, "Him shall God destroy."

Now a few thoughts of warning which should be very urgent to us that we be very, very careful how and where we step, because we do not want to step into destruction. It is very dangerous to have this temple in a hypocritical condition not proving true to what we pretend or profess in going out after our business in making our livelihood and misrepresent a holy temple in our appearance, conduct and conversation. If we are intentionally untruthful, idolatrous, advantageous, covetous, envious, malicious, a busybody in other men's matters and such like we are defiling the temple of God.

Oh, we need to be cautious, every last one of us, that we do not fall into these things. Pride - God hates a proud look. Oh, how human nature desires to comb and wave the hair and even cut it and dress it in a way and manner that becometh not a child of God, we are made to wonder how much precious time and money is wasted in fixing our faces and hair different from natural, as God has created us and would have us be in order to keep his temple holy.

Human tendency must be watched and controlled, otherwise it will run away with us and the temple be defiled. Desecrating the Sabbath day, such as doing week day business, playing games of all sorts, continually talking about the affairs of this life in our visiting, neglecting the assembling of ourselves together in the house of the Lord when possible, missing services because of dirty automobiles when they would go just as well with the dirt on as well as off, if they must be clean don't do it on Sunday because it is set apart as an holy day. We might think these are trifling things to think about but take notice to the Word of God, it says the little foxes spoil the vines, remember "Ye are the temple of God," it matters not where we are roaming around God is right by us.

The Psalmist recognizes God's all seeing providence and declares emphatically the fact of a temple in these words, "Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast be-

set me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whether shall I go from my Spirit? or whether shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost part of the sea; (And the inference is thou art there.) Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light unto me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. For thou hast possessed my reins:..."

Hence to trifle with God and his word, with the expectation of getting by with it is an impossibility, and it means disappointment. Jesus says, "except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." He also says, "If thy right eye offend thee pluck it out: or if thy right hand offend thee cut it off." Jesus means to say rid yourself of the things that defile the temple of God, and beloved we need to have faith in God, we need to pray mightily, we need the power of God to assist us in this all important task, to keep this temple holy and in its proper place, and shape, holy and undefiled.

When the morning light you see,
Don't forget to kneel and pray;
Ask the Lord to walk with thee,
Every moment of the day.

As you travel on through life,
Walk by faith and not by sight;
In the world where sin is rife,
Choose the path that's always bright.

NEWS ITEMS

WALNUT GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA

Lord willing, the Walnut Grove Congregation will be holding their Revival Meetings beginning September 24 and ending with our

Lovefeast, October 1. Brother Tom St. John from Ohio will be our evangelist. We would appreciate your attendance and your prayers that the Lord will have His way.

Sister Dorothy Nell, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their revivals with Bro. Len Wertz from Quinter, Kansas. They are to start on Friday, September 29 and run through October 8. October 8 will be Harvest Meeting. Evening services will start at 7:30, and Sunday evening will start at 7:00. Please pray for these meetings. All are cordially invited to any or all of these meetings.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lititz, Pennsylvania Congregation is looking forward to Revival Meetings, October 8 through 15. We welcome your support in prayer and in attendance.

Lord willing, Bro. Bob Carpenter will be the speaker, 7:30 evenings, 9:30 Sunday mornings. Lovefeast will be on October 15.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans to have their Harvest Meeting on Sunday, October 22 with Bro. David Rice as the speaker.

Also, the fall Lovefeast will be Saturday, November 5-6. Services begin on Saturday at 11:00 P.M. Lovefeast will be at 7:00 P.M. We welcome all who can to join us in these meetings.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

ANNOUNCEMENT

By the grace of Almighty God, services will continue at Brightbills Meetinghouse, between Campbelltown and Fontana on Route 322, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.

Services as follows:

First and Third Sunday 9:30 A.M.

Second Sunday 7:00 P.M.

Prayer Meeting Wednesday evenings as announced.
To these services all are cordially invited.

Brother Lynn H. Miller, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 2000

October 1 - Personal Greetings And Commendations From Paul-Rom. 16:1-16.

1. What do we learn about making friends and our dependence on church family?
2. What is expressed in an holy kiss, and what application does it have today?

October 8 - Final Warnings, Greetings, And Exhortations - Rom. 16:17-27.

1. When selfish individuals cause divisions and offenses, what is the church's responsibility?
2. What is the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began?

October 15 - Remembering With Prayers Of Joy - Phil. 1:1-11.

1. What are the keys to effective intercessory prayer?
2. What does it mean to approve things that are excellent?

October 22 - Chains In Christ - Phil. 1:12-21.

1. What was the nature of Paul's prison ministry?
2. How could Paul rejoice when the gospel was preached out of contention or in pretense?

October 29 - Worthy Of The Gospel Of Christ - Phil. 1:22-30.

1. Should every Christian have a desire to depart, and to be with Christ?
2. What does it take to be prepared for suffering because of our faith?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 2000

October 1 - Christian Virtues - II Peter 1:3-11

1. How do we become partakers of the divine nature and does it take effort on our part?
2. What happens if we lack these virtues?

October 8 - Disciples - Matt. 16:24-28, Luke 14:26-33, John 8:31-32, John 15:8.

1. How do we take up our cross and how do we find our life by losing it?
2. Is bearing fruit the way that we become a disciple or the result of being one?

October 15 - Covenants - Gen. 9:16, Jer. 31:31-34, II Sam. 23:3-5, Isa. 24:5, Heb. 13:20-21.

1. What is the difference between a covenant and a contract?
2. Describe the different covenants found in our lesson today.

October 22 - Cultivate Gifts - Matt. 25:15-19, Rom. 12:5-12, I Cor. 4:5-19, John 10:28, Rev. 2:10-11.

1. Do you know your gift, and do you cultivate all of them?
2. Which is more honorable, to have many gifts, or to be faithful in what God has given?

October 29 - The Comforter - John 14:26, John 15:25-27, John 16:1-14.

1. Who is the Comforter, and why do we need Him?
2. What all will the Comforter do for the believer? For the world?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HOW GENTLE GOD'S COMMANDS

How Gentle God's commands!

How kind His precepts are!

Come, cast your burdens on the Lord,

And trust His constant care.

Beneath His watchful eye

His saints securely dwell;

That Hand which bears all nature up

Shall guard His children well.

Why should this anxious load

Press down your weary mind?

Haste to your heavenly Father's throne,

And sweet refreshment find.

His goodness stands approved,

Unchanged from day to day:

I'll drop my burden at His feet,

And bear a song away.

-Philip Doddridge

CONTROVERSY

At this season, the political controversy that is a part of an American Presidential election is very prominent. There are debates and electioneering to convince the unconvinced to vote for a particular candidate. There are referendums, bond issues, state constitutional amendments and other issues which are on the ballot. Each of these issues produce rhetoric and controversy.

We live in a world that is full of controversy. Now, hate crimes are a separate classification of criminal activity. People are charged with unlawful and senseless acts against their neighbors who differ from them in color of skin or ethnicity.

There is labor controversy. Strikes and threatened strikes, lock-outs and other troubles are common as workers desire higher wages and more benefits, while employers desire a greater return on their investment. These controversies seem unending.

There is controversy found in many homes. Husbands and wives seemingly can not yield to each other to preserve the home so they take their controversy to the divorce court. Children and parents are at odds over trivial as well as important issues within the home. Increasingly we hear of abuse within the home, whether child abuse or elder abuse.

Unfortunately, controversy has found its way into the Church. This is evident when we survey the various denominations which have developed over the centuries. There have been personality

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clashes, where intolerance and ego have prevented people from working together. Other controversies have raged over doctrinal issues. It is feared that the Church which has been given the Law of Pardon has been unable or unwilling to use it to solve problems before they erupt into major controversies that tear apart whole groups. Other controversies have emerged when there is little willingness to draw the lines of separation between the Church and the world.

Although these controversies rage all around us, there is little heard about the controversy that God has with His people. The Prophet Micah tells in chapter 6 about that controversy. The controversy that God had with His Chosen People of the Old Testament would picture the controversy that He has with the Church.

The Church is the Family of God. Unfortunately there is controversy found in that family. The Father has a controversy with His Family. His Family has grown tired of Him. They want the lines of authority to be loosened. They are weary of His demands upon their lives. They want to live their lives the way that seems good to them. As in the days of old, every man wants to do what is good in his own eyes. They do not want to be measured by a standard, even if it is God's standard.

God could recite all that He had done for them in bringing them out of Egypt. He had defended them along the way and brought them into the Promised Land. This is symbolic of what God has done for the Christian. He has delivered him from the bondage of sin which Egypt pictures. He has led the believer along the way through various dangers and pitfalls. He has prepared an Eternal Rest for the faithful in Heaven. Yet like the Israelites of old many are wearied with God's pleas and forgetful of what He has done for them.

As Samuel told Saul, the Lord is more interested in obedience than sacrifice to cover disobedience. People may try doing great works, which have a semblance of godliness, but they will fail for they have neither repented nor chosen to follow God's ways. They are rebellious, which brings them into controversy with God.

Rather than great religious works, God called on them to do some very simple things. These were the things that were close to

His heart as the God of Love. He called on them to do justly. They were to live righteous lives. It seems few have the desire to model a righteous Christian life. The line between the Church and world seems narrower and narrower.

He called them to love mercy. They were to think of the mercy He had shown them in establishing them as His People. Christians should remember the forgiveness that had been brought to them through Jesus Christ. Then they are to show that forgiveness to others.

He called them to walk humbly with Him. He wanted them to yield their ideas and plans to Him, so He could use them in small and great ways. He is still calling the Christian to be the empty vessel that He can use to His honor and glory. Yet too many have their own program so they can not be bothered with what He has asked of them.

Does God have a controversy with you or me?

M.C.Cook

USED BY GOD IN A SPECIAL WAY

Acts 7:17-36

In this passage, Stephen continues his message to the Sanhedrin. In the verses leading up to this, he talked about Abraham. Now he talks about Moses. Stephen showed the members of the Jewish Council how God chose Moses to be a deliverer of the Children of Israel.

The key verse of today's lesson is, "This Moses whom they refused,...He brought them out,..." (verses 35-36)

Stephen pointed out how, as the Children of Israel were living in Egypt, a king rose up which did not know Joseph, and treated them in a very evil manner. In fact, the Pharaoh made slaves out of the Israelites. In an effort to control their population, he commanded them to "cast out," or to kill, all the baby boys.

It was a miracle that Moses survived this order by the supreme ruler of Egypt. It was an even bigger miracle as it was the Pharaoh's very own daughter who rescued and raised Moses. Stephen

showed how God worked in a very miraculous way to provide Israel with deliverance from the Egyptians.

Stephen carefully showed how Moses tried to deliver the Children of Israel by his own conniving. This only led to rejection, and he spent the next forty years of his life in the land of Midian. Then God gave the call to Moses. The time for Moses to fulfill his life's calling had finally come.

Again note how much Old Testament Scripture Stephen quotes in his message. The scribes and Pharisees who are hearing this sermon cannot argue with these facts from their Holy Scriptures.

Stephen shows how that, even though the people rejected Moses as a deliverer, yet God used him to bring the Children of Israel out of Egypt with great signs and wonders. Moses then brought them through the wilderness for forty years.

In this part of the message, Stephen is establishing a parallel between Moses the deliverer, and Jesus Christ, the deliverer. Moses delivered the Children of Israel from the bondage of Egypt, and Jesus can deliver people who accept Him from the bondage of sin. He was showing how the people rejected God's chosen man for the job (Moses), and likewise, that generation (Stephen's audience) had rejected Jesus Christ. We will see that more clearly in the next passage.

Summary Thought . . . Moses was used by God in a very wonderful way. Are you willing to fully place yourself into God's hands, to be used where and when He sees fit?—and to wait patiently until His time comes for you to be used in a special way?

Respectfully Submitted
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

SEEK HIS FACE CONTINUALLY

"Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually." I Chronicles 16:11.

These remarks are being written while the 2000 Annual Conference is still fresh in our hearts and minds. Behind the rostrum in the main tabernacle at the Roxbury Campgrounds is printed, in

huge letters, the following scripture: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 4:6. Every one of our Brethren who took the pulpit from June 10 to June 14 was dwarfed by that scripture. It brought to my mind many verses pertaining to seeking the face of God continually, which I believe is the primary purpose of the leadership of our fraternity, as well it should be with every member.

Matthew 6:33 says: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you." Christ spoke these words, not to the rich, but to the poor of this world: those whose chief concern was the simple things of life. If we seek His face, the rest will follow.

Among the leadership there was much said in the meetings about what our Church will be in the future, how the world will see our Church, and if the Church will change or stay the same. There are those who would love to see changes, seemingly for the better, and there are staunch protectionists: those who wish to keep things as they are. History tells us that when conservative churches make changes in order to win certain groups of people, they not only lose their identity, but they hardly ever grow in numbers. Fortunately, it is not up to us whether or not the Church rises or falls, but it is up to us to seek the face of God continually.

In Daniel 9:3 we read: "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes." In Hosea 7:10 we read about those who did not seek Him: "And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the Lord their God, nor seek him for all this." In Psalm 24:6, we read: "This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob."

Are we, as a Church, seeking His face continually? Do we look to Him in everything we do and in every decision we make as a body? Do our daily lives conform to His Word and do we seek to follow His steps? May God help us individually and collectively to look to Him in all that we do.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

KENYA KNOTES

Kenya In July

July brings us into the rainy season. We have cooler days and nights, ranging from the high 50's to mid 60's. Everything became nice and green. The crops really grew, for which we are so grateful. Not all areas of Kenya have been blessed with rain as we are here.

We were happy to have Kenton and Andrew Miller from our congregation here for six weeks. We put Kenton to work, giving the house a facelift. We did painting, laying tile on the cement floors, building and repairing shelves, running electric and also teaching. They started teaching at the Ortum Congregation. That is our most remote congregation, where they are so attentive to the Word. There are several there who have requested baptism. We decided to have instruction classes first. When Merle asked if anyone knew the stories of Moses and Abraham, very few people did. They decided to start at creation and go through the Old Testament then to the New Testament.

We took the Millers on a safari. It was just awesome, to see the big animals just wondering around in the wild, enjoying life. We even witnessed a lion killing a wildebeest. It reminded me of how Satan is so cunning and sly and just seeking whom he may devour. It happened so quickly.

We were standing on the riverbank just watching the wildebeest, when all of a sudden a bird in the treetops gave a loud call. All the wildebeest started running and coming over the riverbank through the water and up the other side. That quick we saw a lion sneak out from somewhere and she was chasing them. We drove up on the other side where she caught her prey. She then started dragging it to her den. We would have liked to see her cubs, too. We were able to see the big five, except for the rhino.

Naomi Frick arrived on July 27. She has volunteered to be our school teacher. We are so excited about her being here. We know she will do a wonderful job.

We trust this finds you all seeking God in the direction for your life. Is it to serve the Lord in Kenya, at Torreon or where will you be

serving? The Mission Board is looking for you to fill out your application. You will never regret it.

In His Love,
Sister Cindy Sweitzer

We send Christian greetings to every one again. I am thankful that our Heavenly Father does not have computer problems. He is always waiting for us to come to Him and His line is never busy. I thank Him that we have the opportunity to go to Him any time.

I would like to continue the testimony of God's working in our lives, to come to Kenya. While we were helping our dear friend plan and arrange for her husband's funeral, we received word that Cindy's brother, Jim, was killed in a house moving accident. This added more stress into our lives and seemed to bring more questions as to what God was doing. He gave us the strength to persevere and gave us comfort. The subject of Kenya continued to come up in our family discussions. We prayed more about it, seeking direction from God. Towards the end of September, Mother's health continued to decline. We tried to spend some time with her, since I was appointed as her executor. I wanted to know how she wanted things to be handled after she was gone. Cindy and I asked her how she felt about us going to Africa, to the mission field. She gave us her blessing and said she would pray for us. We still did not know for sure when or how long and we needed some time to sort things out.

Cindy and I went away for our anniversary for a much needed rest and time to sort things out. We felt that we would be willing to commit to a year of service to the Lord. When we came home we also asked Cindy's parents for their advice and they gave us their blessings, also. We then called Brother Paul Stump to ask for an application. When we started talking to him he was very discouraged about the work in Kenya with no one to go. When we told him that we wanted an application he turned from discouragement to happiness.

On October 12, Mother went to be with the Lord. She was able to either talk to or see all of her children, grand and great grandchildren the last day before she went home. The last evening most of the family were with her. We had a time of devotion and prayer

with her and ended with singing "In The Sweet By and By" which she helped, as she loved to sing. We all said our good byes and that night the Angels carried her home. Mother had most of her funeral already planned for us, which made it easier for us. Mother had asked me if I would have the message at her service and I said that I would consider it an honor and privilege to do it for her, although it was hard, the Lord blessed us with the strength to do it. I will continue next time.

As I reflect on the work here the past months, it has been quite busy, with meeting Church and community people about their needs of assistance with food, water, medical and financial aid. It can be tough to say "no" to some, but we cannot help everyone.

I have started classes to prepare people for baptism in the Ortum Church. These people are of the Pokot tribe. They do not have the complete Bible written in their language.

When I was there for a service I asked how many knew the story of Joshua or Moses in the Bible? Out of around thirty only three or four hands went up. Brother Kenton and I decided that we needed to start at Genesis to teach the people the foundation of the Word. So I have been going to this congregation once a week for a three to four hour class, most weeks. The people are so interested as they have never heard the stories from the Old Testament. You can hold their attention for one to one and a half hours with very few interruptions.

I have also been preaching at least once here in the Makutano Church and also teaching a Thursday afternoon Bible study. I also try to get to one of the other five congregations once a week to preach and answer questions and to counsel people. The last few weeks we have been using some that are able to preach, to help with the services here so it takes quite a bit of preparation time.

The people here have such a hunger for the Word. They are young in their faith so there are often questions that arise. We sometimes have a service where we just give the opportunity for people to ask questions. There are always plenty of questions.

Most of the Church is willing to work together, although like most other congregations it seems there is always some that are

not satisfied with how things are going. It seems that there are always some problems to deal with somewhere. Continue to pray for us as we covet your prayers that God's will be done. Till we write again God bless and keep you.

In His Service,
Brother Merle E. Sweitzer

THE ROYAL TELEPHONE

Central's never "busy," always on the line;
You may hear from heaven almost anytime;
'Tis a royal service, free for one and all-
When you get in trouble, give this royal line a call.

Telephone to glory, O what joy divine!
I can feel the current moving on the line;
Built by God the Father for his loved and own,
We may talk to Jesus thru this royal telephone.

-F. M. Lehman

I have been thinking about "telephone" calls to Heaven. We can make as many calls as we want and talk as long as we want. There is no extra charge for the long distance, there is never a wrong number reached, and our calls always go through. The service does not go down in an electrical storm or when someone hits a pole. Thank goodness, as that could be the very minute we would need to make a "telephone" call to Heaven. We do not have to wait our turn to use a payphone, or get a busy signal, voice mail, or leave a message on an answering machine.

We have a wonderful privilege to be able to speak to our Heavenly Father on any occasion and at any time. In Psalm 145:18, it says "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth." In Psalm 4:3, David felt the Lord would hear him when he called. We can have that same consolation.

Why do we need to pray? Does not God know our needs before we ask Him and does not He know all things? Prayer brings

us to the level of understanding of our Father's heart. Prayer is our communication line to the Father. Just as it is important to have good communication in a marriage, it's good to have it with our God. We need to express our needs, desires, and innermost feeling. Our deepest emotions need to be expressed. Praises, thanksgiving, feelings of sorrow, hurt, joy, disappointments and failures are examples.

We need to continually look to God through prayer for daily instruction and decision-making. Psalm 5:8 says, "Lead me O Lord, in thy righteousness..." We can utter a prayer of repentance and a plea for forgiveness. In Romans 10:13, it says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." We realize that works need to accompany the prayers. A change of heart can be a result of prayer.

Does God always answer our prayers? Yes, He does. Sometimes the answers are not clear or immediate. Sometimes He answers, "Wait, the time is not right." Let us take our heavy load and lay it at the cross. Our prayers will be answered, if we come in Spirit and in truth.

Sister Karen Blocher

CHILDREN'S PAGE

WHY USE SLANG?

"Golly! it's hot, Mom! Can we have some lemonade?" asked Keith as he came bounding up the steps, wiping the sweat from his face. "We've been hoeing in the garden all afternoon." Cheryl and Ivan followed Keith and sat down on the porch steps.

"Gosh! it's good to sit in the cool shade!" said Cheryl as she fanned herself with her sunbonnet.

"Yes," said Mother, "I realized you would be hot and thirsty so I made some lemonade for you ahead of time." She gave each of the children a glass of the refreshing drink.

"Gee! this really hits the spot!" exclaimed Ivan as he took a satisfying drink from his glass.

"Oh, Darn! I spilled some lemonade on my shirt!" cried Keith.

"I hope it won't cause a stain and will wash out."

Aunt May gently swung back and forth in the porch swing. The children's mother was busy sewing in a rocker near by.

"Children," said Aunt May as she watched the children enjoying their drink. "Do you realize that you have used swear words in your conversation this afternoon?"

"Whatever do you mean, Aunt May?" asked Keith. "You know we don't believe in swearing!"

"I'm glad you realize that swearing is wrong, yet you all three took the name of God in vain just now."

"Tell us what you mean," said Cheryl in a puzzled voice.

Aunt May answered, "We don't realize the seriousness resulting from our careless conversation. We use slang expressions which are really diminutives and are derived from awesome names. We would be shocked to hear anyone in our family say, 'Oh, God, it's hot!' or 'God, it feels good to sit in the cool shade' or 'Jesus! this really hits the spot' or 'Damnation, I spilled some lemonade!' Yet the slang words 'golly' and 'gosh' are both diminutives of the word 'God'. 'Gee' is a diminutive of the name 'Jesus'. 'Darn' is derived from the word 'damnation.' These slang expressions are actually taking the name of God in vain!"

"How awful!" exclaimed Cheryl as she stood up to take her empty glass to the kitchen. "We hear those expressions all the time at school and think nothing of it."

"How easy it is for us to be careless in our speech, yet the Bible says, 'But I say unto you, That every idle word that man shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.'" Matt. 12:36.

"It's serious business then, but people don't know that these words are really swear words if they aren't taught," said Keith.

"Yes, the next time you hear these slang expressions, tell your friends what they really mean. Honor the name of the Lord and His Son at all times. Being careful of our speech is pleasing to God."

Mother laid aside her sewing to go and get supper. "I think we should all memorize Psalm 19:14, 'Let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my

strength, and my redeemer.”

Sister Maxine Surbey

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 1, 1940

THE SURRENDERED LIFE

Ada Whitman

“Perfect submission, all is at rest” can only be truly said from a life fully surrendered, a life “hid with Christ in God.” Jesus walked in full surrender to the Father’s will. Likewise those who name His name should walk, making no provision to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, seeking not their own, nor the glory of the world, nor man, but the glory of God.

There should be a very decided and noticeable difference both in feeling and appearance between the unconverted and converted state of man. He who would secure the blessings of the gospel can not do so without obedience to its requirements. “By obedience is faith made perfect.” Nothing short of the whole word of God will satisfy a converted soul. “He that is of God heareth God’s words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.” (John 8:47.) The devil doesn’t care how much religion we have, just so we are not converted and surrendered to the will of God.

A great man once said, “God grant that I labor with entire confidence in Him, and with none in myself without Him.” Too many times we take things in our own hands and try to conquer in our own strength.

We acknowledge that we belong to Christ when we surrender to Him, but in this higher life we cannot hope to be free from the temptation for Satan is ever trying to devour and deceive; but we may feel new power and strength to overcome for then Christ is our strength. “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Phil. 4:13.) With this hope and assurance, we can ever press on rejoicing, and ever conscious of our fellowship with God.

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us

by them that heard Him.” (Heb. 2:3.) This salvation demands a complete surrender of the mind and body to God’s will, “Light obeyed increases light” and “use or loss is the law of life.” Lord, thee and thy glory only, is the thought of the surrendered will. If we are not growing we are slipping for there is no neutral ground.

It is easier for some to become a member of the church, than to be true to her teachings after they are members and thus become not a part of the church militant. Like the five foolish virgins they were in the kingdom, but not a part of it. They were not prepared and ready to meet the bridegroom when He comes, and were not owned by Him.

A manifested great hindrance to the surrendered life, is pride. “A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.” (Prov. 29:23.) Pride caused Lucifer’s fall and caused him to become the devil. Now he is getting others to fall by the same means. Let us remember there is not room in the heart for pride and Jesus too, and if we yield to pride we are yielding to the devil, and are his servants. “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Romans 6:16.)

Pride makes its victims afraid to step our entirely on the side of Jesus and to let the world know they are a separate people, a non-conformed people, different from the world. The world thinks God’s people peculiar because the “world loves its own,” but Jesus says, “And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.” (Rom. 12:2.)

If God had intended that His church should be like the world He no doubt would have sent John the Baptist who came preaching, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand,” in line with the manner and customs of the world. But he came in a strange manner and appearance, which testifies that God wanted His church to be a body separate from the world and customs.

Pride, and all other fruits of the flesh “defile the man” because they come from the heart. The flesh cannot be converted, but it can be controlled. By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit the flesh is

crucified. "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." (Gal. 5:24.) Jesus does not want a half-heart-service. He wants the whole heart or none. "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." (Jer. 29:13.) Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ." Christ suffered when he was crucified, so will we when we crucify the flesh. "We cannot serve two masters."

When we fully submit to Jesus we will not have any desire to be like the world, nor the flesh will not lead us to keep just as close to the world as we dare without reproof from the church; but the farther we keep away from the ways of the world and greater will be our joy and service. "Resist the devil," refuse to serve him at all, "and he will flee from you," but as long as we allow him any service just that long we are not fully submitted to God's will, not living the surrendered life.

Remember Satan's determination is to defeat the church, to kill its power over sin, and he loves to get in the church where he can cause division for he knows this weakens its power and is contrary to the will of God. "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,...and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (I Cor. 1:10.) The lusts of the flesh which are contrary to the spiritual life cause divisions.

My dear reader is Satan using you to accomplish his end? Remember, if you are in the church and are not willing to comply with its teachings, not willing to be governed by its principles, he is using you to this end. Willingness means action, for by obedience is "faith made perfect." "Faith without works is dead."

There is no excuse for putting off our duty, and we cannot say we are willing if we do not try to live up to the light we have, and what we know to be our duty. Satan will always furnish an excuse and when we offer excuses we are not submitted to God's will in obedience. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17.)

Without a full surrender to God we cannot please Him and we are deceiving ourselves if we think we can serve Him any other way. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving

your own selves." (James 1:22.) If we allow Jesus to be fully enthroned in our heart, submit our will to His will, what a wonderful blessing of comfort, joy, peace, and satisfaction we have. He is only waiting to give us all these, and more if we will surrender ourselves to Him. Truly then, we will "hunger and thirst after righteousness" and Jesus says, "they shall be filled." A wonderful blessing.

If this is a reality in our lives, we will not want to do anything contrary to the standard of the church, nor attire ourselves but the way the church has said, because Christ is the head of the church and to obey His church is to obey Him. Non-conformity to the world is a plain command of the gospel, and we have only one standard, the gospel of Jesus. His commands are not grievous to a true child of His. It has been said of one of the pioneer leaders of the church, "His hours with a friend were cheerful; his hours alone were in agony before the Lord as he sought to do better. It was this hidden life that enabled him to build better than he knew." A surrendered, obedient life "hid with Christ in God" is the secret of the Christian life. And we only attain this by obedience to the gospel.

"My people doth not consider." It is sad indeed, to see those, who have taken a stand for Jesus, to not consider the plain commands of His word, for only through obedience to these do we have the blessing and hope of eternal life. We may be professing and deceiving ourselves into believing we have this hope, and ready to meet Him in the air, but without obedience all is vain. "Obedience is better than sacrifice."

Jesus is willing to bestow the blessings He has in store for His children, but if we are not true to His word we do not have that assurance for He has said in His word, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." (John 15:7.) We dare not compromise with Satan nor the world, for the world is Satan's kingdom. Remember it is popular in this age to say Lord, Lord, but only on condition of obedience can we say it in spirit and in truth. "This people honoreth me with their lips, but there heart is far from me." "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." (James 1:8.) He is not settled and established.

May we each one ask the Lord, "What lack I yet?" What must I yet lay on the altar? If we are sincere He will show us, for He never turns away an honest, willing, seeking soul.

Dear reader are you sacrificing your happiness in eternity by neglecting to take full heed to the word of God? Have you made full surrender? Are you putting the physical before the spiritual? Let us be honest with ourselves and God. Is it self and the world we are trying to please, or is it a friend, or a loved one that is keeping us from a complete surrender? Anything short of full obedience of the whole truth is disobedience and self deception, because it will not save the soul. "So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33.) Everything else in life must be put second to Christ.

If we ever need to live true to God, it is now. As the darkening clouds are gathering over this old world we do not know but what we may be put to a severe test of our faith, and if we want to have a hold on God, and feel that assurance of help, that He will go with us through the trying hours, we must live close to Him by a surrendered, obedient life.

You have long'd for sweet peace,
And for faith to increase,
And have earnestly, fervently pray'd;
But you cannot have rest, or be perfectly blest
Until all on the altar is laid.

Oh! we never can know what the Lord will bestow
Of the blessings for which we have prayed,
Till our body and soul
He doth fully control,
And our all on the altar is laid.

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the spirit control?
You can only be blest
And have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.

IN THE CHURCH

A Church in Africa,
Is very interesting.
You rub shoulders with adulterer,
You sit with robbers,
Listening attentively to the sermon.
You look within indecent dresses,
Women sitting carelessly on the benches,
Men staring vacantly on exposed thighs,
All moving the Lord knows where.
Men and women dressed immodestly,
In funny suits and tatters,
Bow-ties, tights, Ochred sheets and earrings,
Others in mini-skirts and sleeveless T-shirts,
All thinking of things to come.
Adorning in costly apparel,
Together with gold and silver
On the nose, fingers, head, neck and ankle,
This is a Church.
Members seeking easy chances
Of self-upliftment or undeserved promotion
That often mirage further and further
Making frustrated
Minds that should be content for
The faith once delivered unto the Saints
Now spoiled and conformed to the world,
This is a Church.
Where a minister feels ashamed
For his eyes have no curtains
Women have no prayer veils
Their husbands ashamed in the Church
The lips of the wives are not disciplined
Their hair plaited in a fancy way

The eyes of men are red in color
Addicted to illicit alcohol "chang'aa"
And those with shillings
Booze off with the willing
Beating their wives every night
Divorcing and remarrying ever
Causing social chaos in the Church
At home and in the streets
Yelling and howling like dogs
This is a Church.
We need salvation
Redemption and deliverance.
Let us be purged from all iniquity
And be Sanctified from all sin
And cleansed from all transgression
Let us change our ways
And run unto the Lord
Don't follow the way of the heathen
But follow the way of Jesus Christ
Our Lord who shed blood on
The cross for remission of our sins.
Women submit unto thy own husbands
As unto the Lord.
For edification of the Church
For we are the temple of God.

May God bless you all,
Brother James and Sister Emelda Musumba
PO Box 658
Kapenguria, Kenya, East Africa

USE OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS TO WORSHIP GOD?

Psalm 150:3-6, "Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and

dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

We find throughout David's life he used musical instruments in his praises. Now, this is the writing that those who advocate the use of musical instruments in the worship of God quote. David also is the man whom we could say that was the kidnapper of Bathsheba. Did she go willingly to be with David and have his children? Did not David also cause her husband Uriah to die? In the book of Samuel the people proclaimed "Saul slew thousands but David slew ten thousands." Surely God chooses and redeems whomever He wills. He is God. Should David be our example rather than Jesus?

Can you find any record that Jesus or any of the New Testament writers advocated the use of the instruments to worship God? Several places they say that if a man feels merry in his heart, let him sing praises to God. Do we need more than what they advocate? Should we add to that?

A church service I went to once started late. I did not time it but they did not start it until the organist came. If she had not come, when would the service have begun, if at all? I would have liked to ask them, if it was needed in God's plan of salvation? Is there any other reason than they like to hear it? Do they practice the things that Christ says are important?

Brother Walter C. Myers

LAMP LIGHT

Dear Sisters,

Oneness? What is "oneness?" Let me explain.

I have a dear friend named Sarah, who can finish my sentences. We often say the same thing at the same time. Communication is accomplished by using our eyes and gestures just as effectively as if we had used words. We know almost everything about each other.

Such a close friendship is very refreshing and enjoyable, as I'm sure those of you with similar relationships can testify. We spend time nurturing and developing these friendships, and hold them in high regard.

How many of us can honestly say that we pursue even more an intimate "marriage" with our Heavenly Father and Bridegroom? The most precious relationship of all—do we treasure it and guard it with our lives, not allowing anything to interfere with its continued growth?

I am learning to value my precious Abba more than the world itself. When difficult trials come my way I am learning to lean on Him, and in all things, pursue His will over my own, and dear sisters, what a difference it makes! Nothing else matters except our relationship with God. He is the reason for everything! The Creator of the universe, the King of all kings, the Sustainer of our souls—this God wants to gather you into His arms and carry you on the wings of eagles, walk with you through the fire and refine you to pure gold! He will easily carry all of our problems that weigh us down, and put a hedge of protection around us, not allowing anything to pass through save that which is for our good.

When it comes down to it, many of us just don't have the time for this rather consuming relationship. Yes, it takes time, it takes all your time. Yes, it is a whole new way of living, and yes, it is not your typical Christianity. But what else really matters?

God has given us a chance, one precious chance to be His servants and to impact souls for eternity, and we don't want to leave our old way of life and really use the chance He has given us for His glory? Girls, the Lord of the universe, and the Lord of our hearts, wants us to know Him, experience His glory and power! How can we get so caught up in the everyday stuff of life that we forget why we are here? What we do today can make a difference for eternity, whether in others' lives or in our own; or it can be just another day, here one moment, gone the next, leaving only a vague regret for wasted time and selfish actions.

How can we so easily forget what is important? Someday we will stand before God, and have to give an account for every action! For a long time I thought only the unsaved would be judged,

but we all will. Of course, we who are believers will be allowed into heaven, but our works we do here on earth will determine what rewards, if any will await us there. There is only one thing that is going to matter when we stand before the Lord. What are we doing for God? What did we do with God?

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” Read that again. If we really believe what the Bible says, that verse should totally floor us. This is a promise from God! If we seek Him, hunger for Him, thirst and search for righteousness, we will find Him! He promises us that. He will draw us to Him and reveal His nature to us. Only when we bask in his presence and continually, constantly, and completely give ourselves up to His purposes can He purify our very souls and truly shape us so that we are like Him. Our God should be in us, and through us, and totally flow through our innermost being. He created us, and He alone knows us fully. Only He can make us all we were meant to be.

Girls, I'll say it over and over to you, God doesn't want your money. God doesn't want your talent. God doesn't want your praise and sacrifice. He doesn't want to “be a part of your life”, (Don't stop reading here—no, I'm not messed up theologically.) He doesn't even want to be a very big important part of your life. He doesn't even want to be first in your life, or the most valuable thing in your life. He wants simply this: He wants your life. Every thought, every action, every word should be His.

Achieving the oneness, this total consecration to God is not easy. But God promises to meet you, and help you, and the rewards of seeking this unity in spirit with Jesus is worth every tear and struggle! After all, you are His. He won't let you go at it alone. Just start. Take that first step toward Him. Stepping out from your security zone, and out into the unknown, walking by trust and trust alone—that's the way we all should live.

So, let's go. Right now. Let's hold hands through prayer and take that first step together. How! It's what we already know to do, but let's remind ourselves again.

THE BIBLE Yes, there are many other wonderful spiritually-challenging books out there, but read this one first! Before you pick up the devotional, study the real thing. Only the Bible can

change your life. The books will help support you, but only if you are using the real thing above all else.

PRAYER Girls, I feel so unqualified to even write this article! I know so little about all this, so please don't take this in the wrong way. I'm only trying to help, and I'm not perfect, so I won't always say everything right.

Such a simple act, prayer has such power! It is through prayer that we connect with God, and can tap into His power. Pray constantly

We all want to know God's will for our lives. I was praying a few weeks ago, and telling God, "Lord, please show me what you want me to do, one step at a time." Then my eyes fell on this verse. I'd read it before, but never had it hit me as hard as it did that day. "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thes. 5:16-18)

Until we step off the edge, and know that we are surviving only by His grace, and nothing else, we will not know His power; and if we don't know His power, how can we trust Him?

I'm having to trust God with several things right now—trust Him in ways I never have before. I don't want to use this space in HC to complain, but right now, I'm in constant pain with my wrists and hands, and have sharp pain in my head. There's nothing we can do about it right now—we just have to wait, and it's hard! I'm not a waiting person....I'm very impatient. Also, our whole family's future is at stake in a decision to be made soon. I have no control over what happens, and frankly, if I didn't daily give it to God, I'd go crazy. Really, we have to trust to survive. So let's step off the edge together, and press onward and upward for His glory and His honor through His strength.

Your sister in Christ Jesus

Natalie Nyquist

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Selected by Sister Arlene Stamy

A GYPSY GIRL LEADS AN ARTIST TO CHRIST

The following account was read by the writer many years ago. The name of the artist was not given, and the writer may have forgotten some details, but the main features are as printed.

In a city of Austria about four hundred years ago lived a famous painter. He was not a Christian; in fact he was rather proud of being an unbeliever. But because of his great skill he was often commissioned to paint pictures to be placed in churches. A bishop in a nearby city sometime before had engaged him to paint a painting of the Crucifixion; the picture, nearly completed, was in his studio.

One day, as the artist was walking in the countryside, he passed a Gypsy camp, and saw seated outside sewing, the most beautiful young girl that he had ever seen. He immediately approached the girl and asked her to come to his studio and pose for him to paint her, promising to pay her well. The girl consulted her parents, who were pleased at the prospect of receiving money, and the next morning she went to the artist's studio and knocked on the door. The artist brought her in, and she was spellbound, for she had never seen such pictures before. When she came to the painting of the Crucifixion, she stopped and gazed in grief-stricken wonder, and asked, "What are they doing to that poor man?" The artist, impatient to begin painting, answered briefly, "They nailed him to the cross and left him there to die."

After an hour of posing, the artist told the girl she might take a break. She went at once to the picture of the Crucifixion and gazed upon it. Timidly she turned to the artist and asked, "Why did they treat him like that? He doesn't look like a bad man."

"He wasn't a bad man," the artist answered, amused at the girl's ignorance. "I'll find out more about Him and tell you tomorrow."

That evening, the artist went to a book store and bought a copy of the New Testament, which had recently been translated into German by Martin Luther. The next morning, at the first break, he began to read the story to the girl, and was amused at her eager interest. But he also began to be interested in the story himself, for

he had never read it or heard it. As he continued to read a little more at each rest period, his interest became greater. When he came to the story of the Crucifixion, the girl's grief and pity again became so great that she burst out, "Why did He let them do it to Him? He had great power; He could have made them stop."

Finally, when the artist came to the story of the Great Shepherd in John's Gospel, the girl said, "I believe I know why He did it; it was because He loved us." And so the Gypsy girl who had first heard the story of Jesus from an unbeliever became the missionary to lead him to Christ. The artist later painted the picture entitled, "The Thorn Crowned Face", which became the means of leading Count Zinzendorff to Christ.

As we go through life, if we really know Jesus, may we find many opportunities to lead others to Him.

David Lehigh

ONE ORDINANCE, ONE LAW AND ONE MANNER

Numbers 15:15-16, "One ordinance shall be both for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourneth with you, an ordinance for ever in your generations: as ye are, so shall the stranger be before the Lord. One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourneth with you."

We are living in a day of much diversity. The lines of distinctiveness among most groups have become very blurred. What is considered essential and nonessential has become, for most, it seems, a matter of individual conscience.

For some unknown reason, many are under the mistaken illusion that the only individuals that could claim the title of God's chosen people were the natural born Israelites. It is true that the nation of Israel was the chosen nation of God. But we read in Exodus 12:48, "And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof." While there are limitations in comparing the nation of Israel with the Church, we believe many practical applications can be made.

The introduction to our Dunkard Brethren Church Polity states: "In order to preserve the unity of the faith and the identity of the Church of the New Testament, the following statement is declared to embody the principles, practices and doctrines for which the Dunkard Brethren Church stands." Could this be described as one ordinance, one law and one manner?

In place of ordinances, if we are not mistaken, the polity lists Church Rites. These include feet washing, The Lord's Supper, The Communion, the holy kiss, veiling or covering their heads by Christian women in times of prayer or prophesying and the anointing of the sick. These could also perhaps be referred to as our principles.

Although it destroys our desired sequence of thought, one law could probably be best related to our doctrines. We believe these can best be described as the polity pronouncements on The Deity, Man by Nature, The Atonement and The Law of Pardon. Our understanding of the Deity is: The Godhead is one, consisting of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Father is (with the Son) the Creator and the Preserver of all things, The Son is the promised Messiah, Redeemer, and Savior of the World, The Holy Spirit, through the Word, is the convincer of the world and the comforter, and sanctifier of the children of God. Our understanding of man by nature includes the fact that man is morally free to choose, and to act, as his volition directs. Concerning the Atonement we believe that the meritorious righteousness of Christ and his vicarious suffering and death are the only ground or source of redemption, and of forgiveness of sin. Also that the atonement is free and unlimited, and unconditional to all the unaccountable part of humanity and free and unlimited but conditional to all accountable persons. In addition we believe that by the atonement, mankind was redeemed from the "original" or "Adamic" sin and is now accountable for individual sin only. The Law of Pardon includes the need of faith, repentance, confession and baptism. We have not quoted the entirety of the polity statement and pray that we have not left out anything of importance.

One manner could perhaps be related to our practices. These include our understanding on such matters as modesty in dress, separation from the world and not using musical instruments in worship. It also includes our understanding of Biblical nonresis-

tance, affiliation with the civil government, worldly amusements, secret societies or lodges and abstaining from narcotics (except as directed by a physician), tobacco and liquors as a beverage.

We believe that it is God's desire for us, as a Church, to be in agreement on these matters. Many members were born in the Dunkard faith or at least in the Brethren faith. Those who were not, such as myself, could be considered "the stranger that sojourned with you." We do not believe that the faith should be changed or compromised to gain members. These rules that have been changed by Annual Conference should be honored. As for fellow Christians not a part of our fellowship, let God be the final judge. Let us not compromise our convictions to bring about a false peace. May all be done in love as we seek to be faithful to God and His Word.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

BIBLE STORIES

TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS

Matthew 4:1-11

After Jesus had been baptized, He went into a wilderness and didn't have anything to eat for forty days and forty nights. A wilderness is a desert place where no one lives. It would be very lonely to be in such a place. Forty days is a long time to go without food - no breakfast, no lunch or supper for almost six weeks. How Jesus lived all that time we do not know, but He did live.

After the forty days, Jesus was very hungry, and out there in the wilderness there wasn't anything to eat - just a lot of stones. When He was the very weakest, Satan came to Him and said, "If you are the Son of God command that these stones be made bread." Jesus could easily have done this, but to obey Satan would have been wrong, so He just said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Now Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem, and they stood together on the highest part of the temple. It was a long way to the ground, and Satan tried to tempt Jesus by quoting scripture to Him and said, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning thee and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." How very right it sounded. Jesus was to claim a Bible promise and act upon it. Why not?

But there was that tricky little "if" again, and Jesus did not like any doubt shown about His being the son of God. He just wasn't going to put on a show for Satan's benefit. If He jumped and was miraculously saved, people would flock to Him as to a magician. He had come to save people by love and not by circus stunts. Turning to Satan Jesus said, "It is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

We would think that this would have been enough to convince Satan that Jesus was not to be tempted, but Satan had one more deceitful idea. He led Jesus to a high mountain top. From here Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and talked about the glory and beauty of them, and said, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

The devil possibly knew about Jesus' plan to set up a kingdom, and that He expected to do it by sacrifice, suffering and love. So he offered Him a kingdom the easy way.

"You can have your kingdom now," he said, "And it won't cost you anything. Just kneel down and worship me and it's all yours."

It was indeed the easy way, but Jesus was not interested in a kingdom like the world, full of wickedness. His was to be a kingdom in which everyone would be good and kind and unselfish. As for falling down before Satan, this would be a dishonor to His Holy Father. Jesus said, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve."

After Satan left Him the angels came and ministered unto Jesus. No doubt they brought Him angels' food to strengthen Him.

Brother Rudy Cover

MARRIAGE

SOLLENBERGER-SHAFFER

Tawnya Sollenberger, daughter of Dean and Becky Sollenberger and Bro. Tim Shaffer, son of Bro. Frank E. and Sis. Janet Shaffer, were united in marriage August 12, 2000. Their address is 13093 Grant Shook Rd., Greencastle, PA 17225.

NEWS ITEMS

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation plans to hold a fall Lovefeast the weekend of November 4-5. Services will begin at 2:00 P.M., Saturday, November 4 with the Examination service, with Communion service being held Saturday evening. We invite all who can to join us for a weekend of worship and fellowship.

Sister Ruth Clark, Cor.

THANK YOU

I express my thanks to all who remembered me in prayer. The doctors and nurses admitted after they did all they could, that prayers from many were still working.

Thank you for cards, visits and phone calls. It's wonderful to be remembered during illness.

Sister Mary Alice Carlin

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 2000

November 5 - The Humility Of Christ - Philippians 2:1-11.

1. How is it possible to be "of one accord" and "of one mind"?
2. Why did Christ humble Himself?

November 12 - Let God Work His Good Pleasure - Philippians 2:12-21.

1. What did Paul mean, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"?
2. How does God work in us "both to will and to do of His good pleasure"?

November 19 - THANKSGIVING - Psalm 136.

1. Why should we give thanks to God?
2. When does God's mercy end?

November 26 - Hold Such Men In Esteem - Philippians 2:22-30.

1. Who was Paul talking about, "He hath served with me in the Gospel"?
2. For what reason was Epaphroditus "sick nigh unto death"?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 2000

November 5 - Decisions - Ex. 32:26, Deut. 30:19, Joshua 24:15, I Kings 18:21, Matt. 27:17.

1. Who will help us make the right decision?
2. How must we today individually still make the choice either for Jesus Christ or for Barabbas?

November 12 - New Wine In Old Bottles - Matt. 9:15-17, Mark 2:19-28, Luke 5:36-39.

1. How does new wine break old bottles?
2. Of what is the new wine and old bottles parable symbolic?

November 19 - THANKSGIVING - Ps. 119:57-64, Dan. 2:20-23, Luke 17:15-19, Eph. 5:4,20.

1. For what reasons should we give thanks to God.
2. Why did only one of the ten cleansed lepers return to thank Jesus.

November 26 - The Lost Sheep - Matt. 18:11-14, Luke 15:1-9.

1. How did the sheep become lost?
2. Who rescued the lost sheep?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SPECIAL THANKS

Not alone for mighty empire, Stretching far o'er land and sea;
Not alone for bounteous harvests, Lift we up our hearts to Thee.
Standing in the living present, Memory and hope between,
Lord we would with deep thanksgiving Praise Thee most for things
unseen.

Not for battleship and fortress, Not for conquests of the sword;
But for conquests of the spirit Give we thanks to Thee, O Lord;
For the priceless gift of freedom, For the home, the church, the
school;
For the open door to manhood In a land the people rule.

For the armies of the faithful, Souls that passed and left no name;
For the glory that illumines Patriot lives of deathless fame;
For the prophets and apostles, Loyal to the living Word;
For all heroes of the Spirit, Give we thanks to Thee, O Lord.

God of justice, save the people From the clash of race and creed,
From the strife of class and faction; Make our nation free indeed.
Keep her faith in simple manhood Strong as when her life begun,
Till it find its full fruition In the brotherhood of man.

-William P. Merrill

ARE WE THANKFUL FOR WHAT WE KNOW?

At Thanksgiving time, we often tell why we are thankful. There are many wonderful, undeserved blessings that we try to enumerate that for which we wish to thank God. Usually we speak of health, provision, and Spiritual blessings that have come our way. Everything that we have received from our Heavenly Father should make us thankful. We should express our thankfulness, whether it is for large or small favors from our Heavenly Father.

We are admonished by the Apostle Paul to be thankful for all things. Many events in our lives are not those things that we might normally think to give thanks for, but yet they help to make us stronger and more worshipful Christians. The hard times, the injuries, the accidents, the sicknesses, the failures that accompany our lives may seem hard and counter-productive. Yet, the hard times better fit us for Christian living with a purpose. When faced with discouraging circumstances, we can best realize the help we receive from our Heavenly Father. When we have only good times, we may tend to think that we have accomplished all by our own power. It is well for us to acknowledge that it is by His power and might that we are able to do and have what we do. We have been created for His pleasure. Part of His pleasure is our thankfulness.

While we are recounting our blessings, do we consider the thoughts of our hearts and minds? Yet, these are important in our Christian lives as well. It is in our minds where we develop the thoughts that lead to our actions. The scriptures tell us that as a

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man thinketh so is he. Actions are produced by thoughts. Even seemingly automatic responses have developed through a person's thinking over the years. A person subjected to violence may think that violence is the normal reaction to irritations. Consequently they become violent in their dealings with other people. On the contrary those who have dwelt in a loving and kind atmosphere are more likely to respond in kindness.

We can be thankful for the thought patterns that lead to peaceful, Christian living. We are thankful that we have had the advantage of this training within our families and churches. When we see the fear and anger that rages in the world about us we can be thankful for the safe haven that we have where we are instructed and encouraged in right thoughts. For we know that the right thoughts are going to produce the actions that are most consistent with the directives of the Word of God.

The Apostle Paul was concerned about the mental health of the members at Philippi. He gave them a formula for filtering their thoughts so their thoughts would be consistent with God's will. If their minds were thinking in God's ways, then their bodies would be performing in His ways. That formula is detailed in Philippians 4:8, "Brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." If these filters are used by a Christian to guard his mind against improper thoughts, he will have a mind capable of pleasing God in thought, action and speech.

We should be thankful that not only can we know the right way of living, but also that we can know in our hearts and minds that God has provided for our soul's salvation. The greatest thought that can be in our minds is the thought of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ to provide for our salvation. As we think of all other blessings that He has bestowed upon us, no matter how great or wonderful, they all pale before the thought of the salvation of our souls. No other object or blessing has the eternal value of a soul. What God has provided for our souls must cause us to be very thankful. Without His provision we would be lost without any hope of self-improvement or eventual salvation.

Truly there is much that we have for which to be thankful. Once we have established our relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, we receive so many other blessings that are both temporal and Spiritual. For all of these we must be thankful, but none should ever be ranked above that knowledge that we have availed ourselves of His Plan of Salvation.

On this Thanksgiving Day, can you thank and praise Him for your soul's salvation? If you can, you surely have much to be thankful for. If you can not, then be thankful that His provision is still available, so you, too, can know eternal life with Him though Jesus Christ His Son.

M.C.Cook

TIME

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." (Ecc. 3:1)

In the beginning God created time in the vast expanse of eternity. He formed man and placed him on the earth He had made. God then gave man the gift of time. Just how much time is allotted to each individual, we do not know, but we do know that each human being, while living has twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred sixty-five days a year of time to use.

Many hours of a person's life from birth into this world until death when we leave this world are spent in sleeping, eating and resting. (I suppose more than most of us realize.) These are the necessary hours of time that the human body needs to exist. If God would allow us to live the allotted time of three score years and ten we will have been blessed with over 613,000 hours of the precious gift of time that He has given us here on this earth. All of these hours are not used for sleeping, eating and resting. So there are many hours in a person's life that we must give an account of. We are reminded in Psalm 90:12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

As Christian believers we need to walk and live a careful, cautious and wise life. It is our duty to "redeem" or make good use of the gift of time granted to us. Many times we hear people say, "I'm

killing time.” This is a false statement as no one can kill time. Time keeps going on so it is not killed. Rather in essence we are wasting time. It is sad to think of all the time that is spent in pleasure seeking and things that satisfy the flesh and carnal desires, and at the same time how little time is spent in worship and praise to our Heavenly Father. “See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:15-16)

We must be a consistent example before the world. “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.” (Col. 4:5) We need to exercise more time in doing things that would lay up treasures in heaven where rust and moth cannot corrupt and thieves cannot break through and steal. Too many times we find ourselves spending too much time on earthly things and too little time on heavenly things. Too little time is spent in doing good, edifying, encouraging, fellowship, praise, glory, worship, devotion, reading and studying to shew ourselves approved unto God, prayer, being a service to our fellowman and mission work. These are all good and worthwhile things to spend our time in to lay up treasures in Heaven.

When we think of time in the light of eternity, life here on this earth is very brief. Life is like a shadow (I Chron. 29:15), swifter than a weaver’s shuttle (Job 7:6), and like a vapour (James 4:14). “For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” Many times we find ourselves so busy using time for things that will vanish away. Too many times we live beyond our means and have to struggle so hard to survive in this life. We fail to put first things first.

Jesus tells us in Matt. 6:33, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” From this scripture then we would take it that our time should be spent first to seek the kingdom of God, but reality strikes when we find ourselves spending most all our time working to lay up earthly treasures. We then run out of time and are too tired to devote the proper amount of time to God. This is evident when we see the poor attendance at Sunday evening and mid-week services. When we find ourselves spending so much time working,

pleasure seeking and being involved in social activities that we have to miss these services to rest, we are robbing God of the time that He expects us to redeem to Him. The prophet Malachi asks the question, "Will a man rob God?" (Malachi 3:8) As we can rob God of tithes and offerings, so we can rob Him of time.

For six thousand years men have been using and wasting time. The wise look beyond time and use it to prepare for eternity, like businessmen who prepare products they believe will sell well in the future, or like farmers who make hay out of today's summer grasses to feed to their cattle during the frozen winter months ahead.

More even than farmers and businessmen, we must be wise to the urgency of preparing now for the future. God's word speaks to the point, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." (Romans 13:11) We cannot afford to be nearsighted, thinking only of how time affects us today. Jesus asked, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?..." (Matthew 16:26)

We can't see into eternity with our physical eye or comprehend it with our limited mind. But God has given us the capacity and the choice to believe. By faith we can see the invisible and grasp the urgency of planning for it.

So do not let the here and now blur your vision of things more real, though still out of sight. God has so plainly told us what is just beyond our range of vision and has told us that "...now is the day of salvation." (II Cor. 6:2) Wouldn't it be foolish to let fleeting time get away without using it to prepare for an endless eternity?

Brother Paul Stump
10340 Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving 1930

B. E. Kesler

Another anniversary consecrated to remembrance and recognition of the providence and beneficence of an allwise Creator and

loving Father is approaching reminding us we are not in a world of chance but in a well planned and uniquely and orderly arranged universe, governed and controlled by his omnipotent power and immutable laws, through and by which he sustains life and supplies all the needs of his creation.

It is well therefore, as the unworthy recipients of his bounties we should pause a moment, a day, in the wild rush of pleasure mad and reckless age in which we live, and give thanks to the Giver of all good and endeavor in some small way to requite his mercies and show appreciation of his goodness.

In the way of national blessings, our nation has enjoyed a year of peace and tranquillity and amicable relations with other nations of the world with no immediate indications of hostility, or fearful apprehensions from foes without. For this we should be grateful.

Internally we have been at peace among ourselves. The 48 members of our national family have maintained friendly relations, and enjoyed mutual helpfulness and shared alike in the common blessings of life with no famine or pestilence or destructive storms or earthquakes, and so forth. For this we should be thankful.

No ravaging disease, or epidemics beyond the ordinary have invaded our domain, while remedial agencies have been improved, preventative means continued and hospitable institutions fostered. For this we should give thanks. In addition to these national, natural and beneficent blessings emanating from a kind and loving Father, in the religious world, we have likewise much for which to be grateful. Each one unmolested and undisturbed, in harmony with our national constitution, has been privileged to worship in his own way, as has seemed to him wise and best, none daring to interfere or hinder.

True, local disturbances and uprisings have at times momentarily come upon the scene to mar our peace and tranquillity, but these are well under control with prospects of continued peace and harmony, and while we regret these happenings, yet, we are grateful that in the end common sense and good judgment usually control and quietude and peace prevails.

Yes, a great drought swept our country, and crops in many sec-

tions are unusually short, but with proper distribution ere another Thanksgiving we shall find there is bread enough for all, and none will go hungry or suffer from cold more than is usual. And may it not be our extravagance and wastefulness in the past has contributed to a deserved chastisement for our profligacy? Have we not been told of cars of potatoes being "frozen on the track" or "dumped into the river," conspiracy to obstruct trade or to freeze out the little fellow competitor? In such case, may we not expect calamity?

How thankful we should be that "we have not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread," and when we "seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" the temporal and spiritual blessings of life are ours to enjoy! And, though it be "a tent or a cottage, why should I care," when "they are building a mansion for me over there?"

And although many around us are ungrateful for the blessings of life, and unmindful of the grace of God and the offers of salvation and eternal life, how grateful we should be that God ever put it into our heart to love and serve him and that we accepted the offer of salvation and became willing to obey and serve and follow our dear Savior!

And while many are departing from the faith and "forsaking the right way," we should esteem it a great privilege that the opportunity is ours to be affiliated with a church and people who are trying to be loyal and faithful to the Master and endeavoring to make our "calling and election sure" by full consecration to him and full obedience to his commands. Praise God for such a church home.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits. Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul."

"O, give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him; sing psalms unto him; talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name; let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord." Amen.

May our thanks ever go up to him in humble gratefulness for all his abounding grace and mercy in preserving our lives through

another year and may his arm uphold and his grace sustain us through the coming year.

Thanksgiving 1950

Howard Surbey

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:16-18.

In the giving of Thanks we can both rejoice and say. "In everything give thanks" covers a multitude of things that we should be thankful for. This is not given as a suggestion or privilege but definitely as a command. Our text definitely says, "This is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

First, this includes all and exempts no one. I feel we are unanimous in accepting Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior and our mediator to God. Now since we have One through whom we can be reconciled to God because of the weak and sinful things we commit or omit, we certainly wish to do God's will. Our text says "in everything give thanks." Is once a year sufficient to give thanks for everything? Can we include everything by coming to God once a week? Actually can we even include everything if we come to Him once every day? We can appreciate thanks from children who require so many, many daily efforts on our part. How much more are we daily, hourly, dependent upon God?

I feel this text is going to lead us to always have thankful hearts. To always be in a thankful mood. Actually it is going to lead us to appreciate our blessings. It will lead us to realize our dependence upon God our Creator. It will guide our hourly mood and temperament of mind. It will draw us close to God.

How should we give thanks? Is there any better way to show our thanks than in prayer? Will not this lead us into prayerful, humble, dependent mood at all times. "Pray without ceasing" this text will lead us to realize that we are not alone, that we have a constant partner, One who always sees, knows and understands.

We are commanded not to sin. Will not this text alone, help us to keep from sinning? When Christ asked His disciples if they would

also leave Him, the answer was, "whither can we go?" If we prayerfully obey our text how far will we get from God? Will not this lead us to enjoy a beginning of Heaven, here on earth? Rev. 7:9-12, gives us a picture of the joy, purpose and privileges in heaven. If we fully obey our text that joy and practice has already started here on earth. Of what value, what lasting qualities, are the temporal duties on earth that they should consume all or even most of our time? Actually do we not fail to observe our text, mostly, because we feel we do not have time? Whose time are we using?

"Every furrow in the book of Psalms is sown with the seeds of Thanksgiving," Jeremy Taylor. Might this not be reason enough for giving the author of the Psalms that blessed name of "The man after God's own heart?" Do you think David always had all he wanted or even wished for? No, I feel he had hardships, perhaps many trials and afflictions and even want, during his early campaigns. However from his writings, we must conclude that he was a very thankful and appreciative person. Must we receive great or miraculous favors in order to be thankful. If it was not for the countless, small, continual blessings how difficult would be our lot in life? How many of these blessings do we appreciate?

We may ridicule the ten lepers for their lack of thankfulness. Do we thank God for one-tenth of our blessings? No doubt that fervent prayer is the best way to give thanks. However we may also be thankful by speaking to each other about the blessings and unfailing love of God. We have far greater reasons to talk of God than of the weather, our possessions, our friends and our problems.

Sad that believers have gotten so far from God that they cannot or do not wish to thank God for more in song. True many still appreciate thankful and religious songs but they would rather pay someone else to sing them than to put forth an effort to sing them from the heart. How thankful we should be that our church still feels the duty to individually praise God from the heart in song. We may not be gifted to sing but by constant effort we can all develop the ability to worship God in song even though it may not be so eloquent.

Thanksgiving 1970
Let Us Give Thanks Unto The Lord
Walter Bird

In the book of Psalms we have very many expressions of thanksgiving and praise by David. In Psalm 145:1-2, he says, "I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever."

True thanksgiving expresses our gratitude unto our Heavenly Father who is the Giver of all good things. If we are truly thankful to Him for His blessings, praise will be the natural result. As we contemplate His goodness and mercy we want to praise Him that others may also know Him. Hosea expressed it thus, "So will we render the calves of our lips." Someone has aptly said, "All the blessings we receive from God, especially such as concern this life, lose their true taste and relish without praise."

Foremost among the blessings which the Christian enjoys is that of salvation in delivering us from evil. Thanks be unto God that we can be delivered from the power of darkness. Colossians 1:12-14 expresses it in this manner, "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

We have deliverance from the consequence of past sins. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." Romans 5:8-9. Then, too, we have deliverance from the power of sin over us. "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." Romans 6:14. Dare we be ungrateful for these greatest of blessings?

Furthermore, we have the joys of fellowship in the things of our Redeemer. Are we as thankful as we should be for the opportunity of meeting together unhindered? Many have not this privilege. Many in other countries, if they meet at all, must do so in secret. Can we imagine what that would be like? What would it be like if

we could not raise our voices in songs of praise or if we could not study together or could not minister or be ministered unto? Let us be thankful for these blessings and praise our Heavenly Father from our hearts.

Let us not forget the daily blessings God bestows upon us. Every one of us, whether Christian or not, is the recipient of many temporal blessings day by day, "For he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Matthew 5:45. We have food to eat, clothes to wear, we have homes to enjoy and loved ones and friends about us and we live in a land which is yet free.

We have the Scriptures with their precious promises and the revelation of His will and of things that are to come. We have a place of prayer where we can pour out our hearts in petition unto Him with thanksgiving and praise in the assurance that He will hear and answer. We have hope which the world knows not of.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." Psalm 103:2. "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night." Psalm 92:1-2. Let us give thanks unto the Lord.

KENYA KNOTES

Kenya in August

In August it still is a little cool, usually in the high sixties. We have several showers of heavy rains a week. Everything is green and lush. We harvested green beans, sweet corn, and other vegetables from the garden. We have harvested enough green beans to can and gave several away.

Bean harvest is in full swing and we had the privilege of helping with some. They pull out the whole plant. They haul them home in a wagon. During the day they place them in the sun to dry, in the evenings they take them back inside. They do this for several days. Then as they dry, they beat the plants to loosen the beans from the pods. After which they store them in bags. Each day they put them in the sun to dry. After they are dried they shake them in a screen

to get rid of the small pieces of dirt. Then they are kept in a cool dry place for eating or selling at market.

Merle is faithfully going to Ortum Congregation weekly in preparation for baptism. The mission board, which consists of all the ministers, meets every two weeks. It's been a great encouragement to see them all work together for the promoting of the gospel in Kenya. While having a good time of fellowship, it is teaching accountability, trust, and unity in the church. We have been taking beans and maize to the congregations in need.

The boy's focus was getting the school room completed in the guesthouse. That consisted of electrical work, a new window, ceiling, painting, and building shelves, and a lot of motivation from the anxious schoolteacher, Naomi.

School started on the 21st with four happy students. They start their day at 8:30 A.M. It is such a joy to hear the sound of their singing each morning as they give praise to the Lord.

We received over thirty cards for our twenty first anniversary, for which we thank you all very much. We were in Kisumu over that time, for a crusade and seminar at which Merle was to speak. When I think of a crusade or a seminar I think of a big building or stadium. What a surprise! We ended up off the main road, about a thirty minute drive back in the bush, with a few mud houses and a canopy held up by sticks. The people we passed on the way in looked at us as if they never saw a vehicle in those parts, and by the looks of the road, I thought the same thing. We were greeted with true African hospitality. Our family spent the nights at the Beachy Mennonites in Kisumu where I enjoyed time with other missionary women and the young people had a special week-end meeting.

The medical needs are still really high. We treated several children for malnutrition. One couple lost a daughter, Cindy, for being born a month early. On different occasions I had to see that food got to the hospital for the patients. I was also asked to help a sister with a dress pattern. It was quite a challenge, especially since she was the one who was a tailor, not me.

We trust this finds you all well and strengthened in your faith

each day. We pray God's blessing on you and your life as you live to serve the King of Kings.

In His Love!

Sister Cindy Sweitzer

Greetings from Kenya!

It is hard to believe I have been serving here three months already. In some ways, it seems like a very short time, but in other ways...it seems like "forever"!!

I have learned a lot and my horizons have broadened considerably since coming to Africa. I love to sit in church and see the natives sitting on the edge of their bench, listening in rapt attention to what is being taught. Isn't that the way it should be? I think in America, we often think with a sigh, "I've heard this Bible story so many times before..." and I wonder if we do not quench the Holy Spirit's working in our lives.

I find it interesting to sit in on the question and answer times at church. Bro. Merle is preaching through the Old Testament and after those classes, we have a time for the people to ask questions. Some times their questions are a little on the silly side, but most are really searching for answers. The mind set of these people amazes me! When we were studying "The Fall" in Genesis, they wondered where Adam was when Eve was tempted? Some other person tried to answer. He thought Adam was in the house and Eve was working in the garden. Another person thought that sin came with the coming of Eve. When we studied about Isaac and Ishmael and explained that they were half brothers, they just could not understand. Here in Kenya, they are quite familiar with a man having more than one wife. But, they still call all their siblings brother and sister...no strings attached. We ended up using a chalkboard and drawing a diagram, before they "got" it. Even now, whenever someone mentions "half brother" they laugh. It was a new concept to them. It is exciting and challenging to answer their questions!

It is inspiring to me, to think that my Lord is the same as their Lord, even though in culture, mind set, ideas, color, language and so forth we are SO vastly different. Isn't it awesome that the Lord is no respecter of persons?! And the fact that He has CHOSEN the

poor in the eyes of the world, to be rich in faith and to inherit the Kingdom of God! (James 2:5) The amount of faith these people have makes me ponder on how much faith I really have! Oh, that the Lord would increase our faith!!

Continue to pray that the Lord makes us to be a blessing to those around us. That they may see His Love shining through us.

In His Grip,
Sister Naomi Frick

Kenya In September

September found us with a few thunderstorms and more rain. It normally rained in the late afternoon and during the night. Temperatures ranged from the low fifties to the high sixties.

We had a well dug on the compound, getting about twenty liters in a minute and a half. It was so good to see clear, clean water. The three well drillers stayed for about six nights, so they were our first guests in the guesthouse. So it was our responsibility to see that they got meals.

Merle and I witnessed our first wedding in Kenya. James and Emelda Masumba were already married, but it was not legalized with the Kenya government. So we went with the procedure to have it legalized. We had an enjoyable day of ceremony and celebration, along with six other couples.

Our Swahili class has concluded as our teacher, James, started going to college for a two-year program in primary teaching. He will be attending Meru Teaching College, which is eight hours south east of here.

The mission board continues to meet every two weeks. We have been sending a minister to the Kaptalamwa Congregation on Sunday's and Merle teaches a Bible Study there, every other Wednesday. We have been sending a minister to the Chezabet Congregation a couple times a month, too. Please remember the leaders of these congregations that they would seek God's direction for their lives, in becoming spiritual leaders.

The men got together to help a blind lady repair her mud house and build a shower and toilet. They spend a lot of time getting

pipes and fixtures fitted from the well pump to the house.

Naomi and I had the privilege of going along to the Ortum Congregation and handing out clothing and coverings for the sisters, for which they are so grateful and happy.

We want to thank everyone for your prayers and support and especially for your cards of encouragement. The computer was out of order for a month, so letters are really appreciated. May the Lord bless you as you seek His guidance for your life, and may you shine brighter for Him in your corner of the world.

In His Love!

Sister Cindy Sweitzer

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Kapenguria, Kenya, E. Africa

POWER TRANSMISSION

Much is being made these days about the option many homeowners now have in choosing their power generation supplier. To facilitate this choice, an elaborate infrastructure of wires and substations and towers needs to be in place.

A typical power generation plant produces about 2,000 to 4,000 volts per generator. Then the power is stepped up to 155,000 to 765,000 volts and sent over large transmission lines to the substations, where it is reduced to 23,000 volts. From there, the electricity is sent over a series of transmission wires to another substation somewhere close to where you live. There, it is reduced to 7,200 volts, which is what the average power line along the typical American road carries. From the power line along your road, the electricity is stepped down by a transformer hanging on the utility pole to 240/120 volts, which is then sent throughout your house where it is available for your household needs. The power is available all the time except when there is a power interruption for some reason.

Now think about God's power transmission system. The electrical lines can be compared to the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit quickens (makes alive). The Holy Spirit empowers. At the time of the creation of man, "the LORD GOD formed man of the dust of the

ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Genesis 2:7) The Spirit of God changed that lifeless pile of dirt and clay into a living creature!

Just so, God wants to empower you to be a living witness to those around you. The power comes from God through the Holy Spirit to you, where He enables you to apply the Word and the will of God to your daily life. And then the power goes out from you to the world around you.

That's God power distribution system! God, through the person and work of the Holy Spirit, changes a spiritually dead person to a spiritually alive person! "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." (Romans 8:11)

God then energizes us to do His will here on earth. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6) He works through us to minister to:

- our mate.
- our children.
- those in our church family.
- those in the local community.
- those in the world.

In Ephesians 5:18, we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. But what does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? It means being in total subjection to the Word and to the will of God. It means jumping when we are asked to jump. Being Spirit filled means that we have a choice, and each choice that we make must be made under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It means yielding our every move to His control. We are to throw off all that we used to be, and embrace all that is Him, living unto the Spirit, and walking in His ways.

If we experience our faith as a living relationship and not as a habit or ritual, we begin to learn to develop a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and respond to His leading, because He aids us in our ongoing

ing relationship with Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ in our lives.

How can we become filled with the Spirit?

1. Being Spirit-filled takes asking.

Jesus instructed His followers, "...Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." (Luke 11:9-10) He then clarified the intent of this command by saying, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13) We need to ask humbly and sincerely to be filled with the Spirit.

2. Being Spirit-filled takes yielding.

Three times, in Romans 6, we are commanded to yield ourselves to God. To be led of the Spirit, we need to yield our bodies unto God. We need to present our bodies unto the influence of the leading of the Holy Spirit. God does not force Himself on anybody! Consider these familiar words from Romans 12: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

This power transmission that we are speaking of is made possible by our willingness to yield. God must be on the throne of your heart. But you must yield that position to Him moment by moment.

3. Being Spirit-filled takes submission.

We need to exercise submission (1) to the Holy Spirit of God, and (2) to one another. This is what it takes to be Spirit-filled. Continual, moment-by-moment, deliberate submission to do what you know is right; to doing what you hear the Spirit of God telling you to do!

Sometimes I am shocked by what the Spirit of God tells me to do! First of all, I know it did not come out of my brain, because I would never have thought of it! Secondly, it defies common sense, or any logic I have ever believed in! Thirdly, though it may be simple

- yet it is often so hard to go ahead and do it!

Brothers and sisters, we need to heed the Spirit of God! That's the only thing that can save our Church Denomination! Read the Bible and DO IT! Hear the Holy Spirit, and simply do what He says! But be sure that it's the Holy Spirit you are hearing from - and not your own self! Be careful! One thing for sure, the Holy Spirit will never contradict the written, revealed Word of God!

No matter how dark the way seems, trust in God. Keep your faith in Him.

As we grow and mature in our walk with God, the power of God is manifested in us when we do things that are Godly, Christlike, and in a Christlike spirit. We become a part of God's power transmission system when the power of God manifested in us begins flowing through us to others as we minister to others.

In the example of electrical generation, we can see the need to take the power from where it's generated and get it to where it is needed. If all the power stayed at the generation station, it would not be doing anyone any good! It is the same way with the power of the Holy Spirit. You have the potential to be a part of God's power transmission system by ministering His love, His truth, and His grace to others who are not in a position of otherwise hearing from Him. God wants to use you to live out and to communicate His message to the world around you.

Are you willing to...

- Yield to God in you (the Holy Spirit)?
- Submit to the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit?
- Obey the written, revealed Word of God?
- Live in trust, and true faith?

Respectfully submitted,
Brother Bob Lehigh

LEANNESS OR FATNESS?

Psalm 106:15, "And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."

Isaiah 55:2b, "...hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

It is sad to read about Israel's descent into worldliness. It would be bad enough if it only happened once, but the scriptures tell of numerous times when God's people turned their back on Him and went after the things of this world, even to the extent of worshipping other gods. One time they remembered their past life in Egypt: the leeks, and the onions, and the cucumbers. Such a little thing it was, yet God was preserving them. Is it right to remember our worldly life after God has saved us? Luke 9:62 answers that question. "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Another time Israel wanted a King, "so we can be like other men." God was clear in His teaching that the people were to be separate from the world and the things of the world. This teaching is very much a part of both Old and New Testaments, yet it was ignored back then and it is ignored today. Men and brethren, what shall we do?

History tells us that a hundred years or so ago the Brethren started asking for a salaried ministry, and the freedom to dress and live as they pleased. They asked to be able to enter politics, or the armed services, and to divorce and remarry. They wanted to be able to do as they pleased. Yet the scriptures tell us in I Corinthians 6:12, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

We cannot allow ourselves to be enslaved by worldly things. We cannot be enticed and deceived by anything that takes us away from fellowship with God. Is it expedient? Does it edify? Does it bring you closer to God? Psalm 106 tells us how the people of God begged for things that were not good for them. "He gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."

How is it with us? Have we wished for things that we should not have? Have we wearied God with our pleadings? Did He grant us our wish, only to have it destroy us? Israel, because of Her sin, was carried off into captivity, and many did not return. Those a hundred years ago who begged for the things of the modern church

may have attracted members, but what of their Spiritual condition? What, indeed, is our condition?

Isaiah 55 tells us that if we "hearken diligently" unto the voice of the Lord our soul will "delight itself in fatness." If we seek Him and find Him and follow His Word we will be spiritually rewarded. If we desire what God desires He will give us the desires of our heart. Isaiah 35:6 says how that "in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert." Our life will be an oasis in a dry and thirsty land. Others will see that truly we have been with Jesus.

So the choice is ours. Will it be leanness or will it be fatness? God wants us to be in spiritual abundance. The question is, do we?

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THANKING GOD: EVEN WHEN-

While we must be careful that our attitude is not as the Pharisee as recorded in Luke 18: 11, "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican." We do have much to thank God for. In the first seven verses of Psalm 107 we find some of these things recorded.

"Oh give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." Do we really recognize that God is good? It is usually easy to see the goodness of God when all things are going well, but what about in the hard times? Christians are special people in the eyes of God but we are not immune from the troubles of life. The "Even when" in our title has a different meaning for each of us. But for all of us it is often a time when we struggle with the goodness of God. Truly "His mercy endureth forever," in the good times as well as in the time of hardship or sorrow.

"Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." While this is probably speaking of those times when Israel was saved from their natural enemies, we believe it has a much more spiritual significance. Satan is the en-

emy of our soul. Praise God, we have been redeemed through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ from his stronghold! We can truly sing,

“Thank you Lord for saving my soul;
Thank you Lord for making me whole;
Thank you Lord for giving to me,
Thy great salvation so rich and free.”

“And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.” Thank God, He is no respecter of persons. No matter what our color or nationality we can have this great salvation. The self righteous Pharisee would have limited the salvation of the Lord to His chosen few, not the Lord’s.

“They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.” Many thank the Lord with their mouth but fail to thank him with their life. In reality they are still wandering in the wilderness of the world in a solitary way. Like the Pharisee who prayed, “thus with himself,” they use the name of God but fail to give Him His proper place of honor. It is interesting that the Bible says the Pharisee stood to pray. We would not go so far as to say it is wrong to stand and pray in public worship, but we believe many times it signifies a proud heart. To truly thank God takes a humble heart and spirit. They found no city to dwell in because they lived in the “city of God,” while their hearts were still in the world.

“Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.” Are we hungry and thirsty for more of the Lord? Do we thank God for material blessings and fail to realize the much more precious spiritual blessings? Yet we realize that there are Christians who have had the need to thank God in the midst of a lack of food and drink. It is much easier to thank God when our refrigerators and stomachs are full with plenty of food and water and other things to drink than when experiencing famine or even a time when work is not available.

“Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distress.” Many miracles have taken place in the lives of true believers. They could truly thank God for deliverance.

Some times we are delivered to continue our lives on earth. But this is not always the case.

“And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.” We should thank God that there is a place prepared for us much better than this world. A place that knows no sadness, sickness or death. To reach this Holy Dwelling we must be led forth by the right way.

We can thank God that we are not as other men are, but that we are justified by the blood of Christ. But unlike the Pharisee, we must humbly admit that we too fail God in many ways. We can thank God that we are not extortioners. But we must thank God for His mercy upon us in those times we may have stolen time from our employer or even things from God by failing to do as He desired. We can thank God that we are not unjust. Yet we must admit that there may have been times when we judged others unjustly. We can thank God that we are not adulterers. But are our thoughts always as pure as they should be? We must be careful in thanking God that we are “not as this publican.” If plain dress becomes a source of pride it is wrong. Let us humbly THANK GOD for His mercy.

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BIBLE STORIES

JESUS, THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Did you know that Jesus died on a cross and was buried in a tomb cut out of rock? Pontius Pilate, the governor of Judea, had ordered a Roman seal to be put on a great stone that was rolled in front of the tomb. This was so that no one would dare to break it for fear of his life. A watch of soldiers was sent so nobody would steal the body of Jesus.

Very early on a Sunday morning there was a great earthquake. The soldiers could hardly stand on their feet! And then they saw an angel of the Lord who came down from heaven. His face shone

like lightning, and as the soldiers watched the angel rolled away the stone from the tomb. The soldiers were paralyzed with fear and fell to the ground to become as dead men. Those Roman guards and the seal on the stone meant nothing to the angel. He just sat down on the stone as if they weren't there.

We do not know if the soldiers saw Jesus come out of the tomb. We do know that the angel told the two women who came, "He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Just an empty tomb! I think Jesus came out of the tomb before the rock was rolled away. We know that He could have because later He appeared in a room where His disciples were gathered. He didn't even open the door. The tomb was opened to show that Jesus was not there anymore: that He who was dead was alive again. Nothing this world could do - the stone, seal, or the Roman soldiers - could stop the power of God.

At one time Jesus told His disciples, "I have power to lay down my life and I have power to take it again." Again He said, "My sheep hear my voice and they follow me, and I give unto them eternal life." Jesus had power to give life to Himself, and He has power to give life to all those who follow Him. This means that you should always want to live like Jesus. He always did what was good. His concern was for others. He didn't lie or steal or cheat. He always told the truth. Learn to act like Jesus when you are young, and you will never forget it when you grow older, and the Lord will bless you abundantly, even to giving you eternal life.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who ran the faster, Peter or John? (John 20:2-4)
2. Who talked with Jesus before He ascended to His Father? (John 20:11-18)

Brother Rudy Cover

GOD'S WARNINGS

Richard Mummau

For a devotional let us look at Deuteronomy 6:10-13 "And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the

land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not, when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name."

God is warning Israel of the dangers that lay ahead of them. God knew that they would receive many things that they did not work for. And they would live in a land of plenty. And God is warning them that when they get these things they should not forget God.

Jesus also taught about the danger of riches. He mentions how that a rich man can hardly enter heaven. The reason is that we tend to allow our riches to control us. We get things and we do not want to let them go.

Now riches are not sinful in themselves. Apostle Paul in I Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18. That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; 19. Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

Paul says that those who have riches are: "not to be high-minded". To be high-minded can mean various things. Some people think when they are rich that they are better than others. Some think that they are better managers of their money. Some think that they are more worthy to be given responsibility in various areas, and so forth. In other words, they become proud of themselves and their accomplishments. And often those who have riches look down on those who do not.

Paul says they are not "to trust in 'Uncertain' riches". Job was rich also, but we know that in one day he lost everything. The same can happen today. And many times when people are trusting in riches, they are not willing to share with others, because they

are afraid they will need it later.

Paul says they are “to do good and be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate”. Being ready to distribute and being willing to communicate just means that when someone has a financial need, we are ready to help out. Paul speaks of one church communicating to his needs, and he meant that they sent him money. It is possible to have lots of money and walk around with our eyes closed and therefore not see any needs. Too often people are like the Levite and the Priest and walk around the man laying along the road. We are to be like the Good Samaritan. Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. And there are too many people who are missing out on a lot of blessings.

Sometimes people want to know who their neighbor is or who they should be helping. Well, our neighbor is the person who is in need and we have to walk around him to not help him.

Paul then says “Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation”. The Bible speaks of laying up treasures in Heaven. When we put money in a bank on interest, the interest makes our original investment increase. When we give to the Lord’s work, we are laying up treasures in heaven. When we give to those in need, we are investing in the kingdom of God, and the interest is out of “this” world, which means it is being laid up in heaven.

Now I don’t want anyone to think that it is wrong to save some money for a rainy day. And it is not wrong for young people to lay up some money to buy a house, and so forth. But I have heard of people who did not give hardly anything because they still had some debt. I’ve heard some people say, when I get everything paid, then I can really give. Well, generally it does not happen this way. When they get everything paid, they usually buy something to make their business bigger and then they still don’t give. It is when we put money away just so we will be able to take it easy in the future that God is not pleased with. We know the account of the rich young ruler. He had a bumper crop, so much that his barns would not hold it. So, he was going to build bigger barns, and keep it and take it easy. And our Lord rebuked him for it.

So dear family, let us be careful that when things are really going well with us that we “forget God”. I have noticed often that it

is when people are really in need or in trouble that they spend much time in prayer. We should be doing that when we have plenty and are not in trouble also.

God bless each one of you real good.

Selected by Sister Terry Scofield

THE JANITOR

Let me introduce myself. I am the janitor at Brightbill's Meetinghouse. You have probably driven past it if you live in the area. It is along Route 322 between Campbelltown and Fontana in Central Pennsylvania.

I count myself very fortunate to have this job. There is no payment in money, but the pay I do receive is more precious than gold. While I am here and the place is empty, I go about my work, singing as I do. Then I will sit down and pray and sing some more. The building was built in 1844. Sometimes I imagine some of the saints that occupied these pews singing along with me. What a blessing to know that others once walked the way we are traveling!

I guess I am a jack-of-all-trades here: sweeping the floor, leading the singing, reading the scripture, and even doing my share of the preaching! One thing I am grateful for is that the Gospel is unchanging, even in this ever-changing world, and that we can preach Christ without fear of man. It is truly wonderful to know that a person's sins can be forgiven by the Lord Jesus Christ and that we can be on our way to Heaven. Jesus made the way for us - we can do nothing to save ourselves except trust in Him.

Well, I have a few more window-sills to dust, and it looks like my son is soon done with the mowing.

Come visit us at Brightbill's if you have a chance. The second Sunday of the month at 7:00 P.M. is our evangelistic service. Thank you for reading this little message. I hope to see you soon.

Submitted with love,
The Janitor

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The address of Brother Virgil Leatherman now is: 10B Juniata Court, New Oxford, PA 17350

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

The Dunkard Brethren Mission in Kenya has a new e-mail address. That address is dbchurch@africaonline.co.ke.

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

We would like to thank you SO much for all your prayers and support after Tim's accident. As you can well imagine this has been a very trying time for our family but we feel very blessed by all the love and support that's been freely given. Whether you sent a card, made a phone call, paid a visit, sent a love gift or petitioned our Heavenly Father we sincerely thank you! We felt those prayers and that meant SO much to know that there were Christians all over holding us up to the Father. He heard those prayers!!!!

We would also like to send a special thank you to all those young people who are serving the Lord and building His church. What an encouragement to get cards and even love gifts from young people. I'm not sure I was that thoughtful in my teen years so it is amazing to see the spiritual maturity of young ones in our church. Also, to our awesome young people (and their parents) in McClave, thanks for everything. Some of you mowed, took wheelchair walks, cleaned, made cookies and did a terrific job of taking care of our little children, it has all meant so much!!

We are praying for all of you, that God would truly bless you ten fold for your thoughtfulness.

In His Love,
Brother Tim and Sister Valerie Noecker

NOTICE

The new Indiana-Michigan-Wisconsin directory of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church is now available. The 5 1/2x8 1/2 size is \$7.00, and the 3 1/2x5 1/2 size is \$3.50. A set (consisting of

one of each size) is \$10.00. All prices are postpaid. These directories may be purchased by sending orders to:

Miriam Aaron
9044 S SR 13
Pendleton, IN 46064-9793

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 2000

December 3 - Count All Things Loss - Phil. 3:1-11.

1. If it were possible to trust in the flesh, what would you have confidence in?
2. Is verse 10 the key to "count all things loss"?

December 10 - Press On, Lay Hold, Reach Forward - Phil. 3:12-21.

1. How important is it to forget the things, which are behind?
2. What does it mean that our conversation is in heaven?

December 17 - Rejoice In The Lord Always - Phil. 4:1-9.

1. Is it really possible to rejoice always?
2. How do we remove wrong or lustful thoughts from our mind?

December 24 - The Birth Of Christ - Rev. 12:1-17.

1. Who is the woman and who is the man-child?
2. Describe the war in verse 17.

December 31 - Content With The Strength Of Christ - Phil. 4:10-23.

1. Why are so many Christians discontented?
2. Does God use other people to supply our needs?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 2000

December 3 - A Convenient Season - Matt 8:19-22, Luke 9:59-62,
Acts 24:24-27.

1. How urgent is the call to salvation?
2. Is there anything that needs to be taken care of before we come to Jesus?

December 10 - The Penitent Thief - Luke 23:38-47.

1. Does fear play a role in repentance?
2. These men received the due reward of their deeds; what does any one of us really deserve, and what is the solution?

December 17 - God's People - Ex. 19:5, Deut. 14:1-2, Luke 1:13-17, Titus 2:11-14.

1. What does it mean to be a peculiar treasure and how do we become one?
2. What does it take to turn our hearts so that we are ready and prepared for the Lord?

December 24 - The Christmas Story - Luke 2:1-20, Matt. 2:1-11.

1. What does it take for us to glorify and praise God as the shepherds did?
2. Has the prophecy concerning Jesus being a governor to rule Israel been fulfilled?

December 31 - Out With The Old; In With The New - Rev. 20:10, 21:8.

1. Describe the torment in the lake of fire; and the blessings in the New Jerusalem.
2. What takes place at the great white throne judgment?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 12

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

NOT WHAT BUT WHO

'Twas not the gray-berried branches of cedar,
Nor the holly of scarlet and green;
And not the thatched inn with its stable so lowly,
Nor the Bethlehem manger scene.
'Twas not the glorious song of the angels,
Nor the star shining wondrously bright;
Nor was it the flocks on the hills of Judea,
Nor the shepherds who watched them that night.
'Twas not the three wise men in Orient splendor
With their gifts of fabulous worth;
For no one of these can reveal the true message
To the heart of a sin-burdened earth.

But hark! I hear, "Glory to God in the highest!"
Glad song of the angels that night,
For the darkness and woe of earth's travellers
Is dispelled by a heavenly light.
It is love everlasting, true and abiding,
With peace calming life's troubled sea;
It is joy all unmeasured, deep and abounding,
For souls once in bondage made free.
'Tis Jesus the Lord Who brings to us Christmas,
The Child Who to Bethlehem came;
God's Son Who on Calvary brings life eternal -
All hail to His wonderful name!

-Emily R. Moore

Selected by Brother Galen Litfin

THE GIFT AND GIFTS

Christmas is associated with gifts and gift giving. A large share of the American retail economy is tied to the purchase of gifts during the Christmas season. Some businesses can not survive throughout the year unless they have a very abundantly profitable Christmas selling season. Retail stores begin displaying their Christmas wares earlier each year. Much of the advertising surrounding the Christmas season is designed to persuade potential customers to spend more and more so they can be perceived as generous, religious and "up with the Joneses". Subtle messages are included in the advertising that will make a purchase seem reasonable even when it will entail debt and future payments. Christmas to most merchants is not about the worship of God, the honoring of Jesus Christ or the salvation of lost souls. It is about the highest, possible profits and the movement of merchandise.

The giving of gifts amongst families and friends is a natural outgrowth of love and good will. When gift giving becomes bound up with status and purchased affection, it has lost its natural place in our lives. The giving of gifts at Christmas time is a human copy of the Original Christmas Gift, Jesus Christ. God, ever Gracious and Merciful, saw the true need of the human family. That need was not for physical or temporal gifts. The human family needed a Spiritual gift. God knew that the best He could give was His Son

As the Creator and sustainer of man, God knows our real needs.

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He made Adam and Eve and placed them in a perfect environment. Having all that could possibly make them happy, they listened to the Satan's siren song. They desired that which was forbidden. With Satan urging them on, they ate the forbidden fruit. Immediately they fell from their simplicity and faultlessness. They wanted to be as God. They now knew right from wrong. They had done wrong. Sin entered by their fall.

God continued to call the human race to follow Him. They continued to exalt themselves against His direction. He had to deliver them into bondage and hardship to get their attention from time to time. They would pledge their allegiance to Him, only to fall away very soon afterwards. He brought the Flood and other harsh punishments upon them, hoping they would be drawn to Him. Although they would draw closer to Him for a short time, when the harsh trial had passed they would again imitate the ways of their neighbors.

After many centuries of thwarted advances towards man, God made His last and best offer to the human race. He decided if they would not pay attention to His ways that He would give the Ultimate Gift, which, hopefully, they could not refuse. His Ultimate Gift was His Son. Jesus Christ, the God-Anointed Saviour, came to men as a Babe laid in a manger in a lowly stable. This was hardly the way the Son of God would be expected to appear. His lowliness made Him a part of humanity as He had the same physical needs as the people among whom He dwelt.

Although He was very much human, He still was God. He felt the same weariness and hunger that others felt. He was without sin in any form. His ultimate gift was His life, which He gave as a sacrifice for the sins of the human family. He humbled Himself to be not only the Babe born of a virgin, but to be the sacrificial Lamb on the cross. He paid the price as He died and was buried. That price was accepted by God as the proper sacrifice for sins. His resurrection was the proof of God's acceptance of that sacrifice.

By His Grace and Mercy, God has offered that Gift to the world for nearly two thousand years. Those who have been wise enough to accept it have been greatly blessed. They have been blessed with more than the Gift of salvation, they have also received many

other Spiritual gifts that would enrich their lives and lead them to better honor God.

God wants those who have accepted His Gift to be well equipped to live lives that would honor Him. Therefore He has provided the Holy Spirit as a guide for each one. He has provided the Church for worship, fellowship and shared direction in the Christian life. He has given and preserved His Word that His will and Wisdom might be known among men. He has provided talents and abilities so we can not only accomplish a livelihood, but also serve Him. He has provided the Spiritual gifts that are needed to direct the Church, to elicit worship towards Him and to encourage fellowship among believers.

A gift is not a gift until it has been accepted. God has offered His Gift. Have you accepted it? He has offered various gifts. Have you accepted them?

I hope you have, so you truly may have a God-blessed and Merry Christmas.

M.C.Cook

THE PROMISE OF CHRIST - A PROMISE FULFILLED

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3.

"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee." Genesis 17:7.

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Galatians 3:16.

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his

Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Galatians 4:4-5.

Humankind is apt to make promises from time to time. Some of these promises are very sincere but, alas, many of them are not. Some promises made are deceptive. An example would be when a parent tells a child if they are good Santa Claus, the Easter bunny or the tooth fairy will make an appearance when they are asleep.

Some promises made are selfish. While we believe it is good to teach a child responsibility and a good work ethic, we believe it is wrong to promise a child something only to allow oneself to be relieved of work or responsibility. Parents should work with their children not use them as servants or hired help.

Some promises are irresponsible. We should never make a promise to a child, or any one else, that we are pretty certain we will not be able to keep.

Unlike humankind, when God makes a promise we can be assured that He will keep it. There are those who insist that God's promise to Abraham is to be fulfilled in the future. Others concede that part of the fulfillment has already taken place. We do not desire to enter into a dispute over end time theology, but establish the truth that a promise has been fulfilled.

God told Abram (later Abraham) to get out of his country, and from his kindred, and even from his father's house. Jesus Christ has instructed us that to be His disciple we must be willing to forsake all. Many are not willing to do this and thus may not receive the blessing of the promise fulfilled.

God told Abraham that He would make of him a great nation. We know that Israel became a great nation. However, in I Peter 2:9 the Church is also called a holy nation.

God said He would bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee. We know that a special blessing of God was upon Israel. God has also promised to be a special blessing to the Church which was purchased by the blood of Christ.

Finally, God said that all families of the earth will be blessed through his promise to Abraham. The verse from Genesis 17:7 gives further light on this portion of the promise. When this verse is compared with Galatians 3:16, quoted above, it seems clear to us that at least this portion of the promise was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

While we may not understand the timing of God, we can be assured that the promise was fulfilled when the fulness of time was come. The promise was fulfilled through a baby born, made of a woman. No man was involved in the birth of Christ. Modernists who deny the virgin birth must be classified as liars. Jesus Christ also was made under the law. That is He was the promised Messiah to the nation of Israel. Thus He came to redeem the Jews and fulfill God's promise to Abraham. Then, Praise God, we, the Gentiles, might receive the adoption of sons. We become spiritual Jews through God's fulfilled promise! (Galatians 3:29.)

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

CHRISTMAS 1930

THE HARBINGER OF PEACE

B. E. Kessler

Some 2,700 years ago a servant of God, by prophetic vision, lifted the veil of futurity and announced to the world the birth of a child that was to bear the name, "which is above every name", and whose character was to be indicated by the titles supplied to him. And it is noteworthy that none of these titles indicate anything but high and noble purpose of life, loving deeds, wholesome teaching and royal birth and Divine parentage.

True, his enemies applied degrading epithets to him and impugned his motives, and accused him of being in league with demons, but none gave him a title or name to indicate it.

The prophet said, "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

And truly his name is wonderful when we come to consider it in the light of its relation to the present and future salvation of men, "for there is none other name under heaven, or given among men whereby we must be saved."

As a counselor, the world has never produced his equal. His counsels are of this nature: "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire that thou mayest be rich, and white raiment that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear."

The Mighty God, an appellation that sets him forth "the Creator of all things, visible and invisible" and "without him was not anything made that was made" and as the "Father of our spirits", for as the Word he "was in the beginning with God and was God", hence the Everlasting Father, co-eternal with God, the Father, almighty and all eternal, from everlasting to everlasting, "without beginning of days or end of life."

The Prince of Peace, said the prophet, is to be one of his titles. As Prince, he is the Son of the King and heir to the throne, and the harbinger of peace. And so after he had lived a peaceable life among men, and had taught them the principles of peace by which peace may be secured and maintained, just before leaving them he said: "My peace I give unto you, my peace I leave with you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you." He would give peace, not at the mouth of the cannon or point of the bayonet, but on the great principles of justice, equity and love, which is justice to all and nepotism to none; equity to all and favoritism to none; love to all, hatred to none; fairness to all and coercion and oppression to none.

On these broad principles of peace, families may be at peace, communities may be at peace, states may be at peace, nations and even the world may be at peace. "Whatsoever ye would that others should do to you do ye also unto them" is his rule for securing and maintaining peace, and "if thy enemy hunger feed him and if he thirst give him drink" is his rule to deal with enemies. These principles and rules have never been known to fail to bring about amicable relations when properly applied.

The prophet said further: "The government shall be upon his

shoulder; and of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever." And Luke tells us: "The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father, David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." (Luke 1:32.) While seated on the throne of David rebuilt (Acts 15:16) yet his kingdom and peace are to increase and have no end. So that his kingdom is a kingdom of peace, and not a kingdom of war and bloodshed, as was that of his father, David. And so he said: "I came not to destroy men's lives but to save them."

It will be recalled that part of the "good tidings" the angel brought to the shepherds was: "Peace on earth, good will to men." So that he may appropriately be called the Harbinger of Peace, and his kingdom, a kingdom of peace in which his subjects do not fight, or engage in carnal warfare; for "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal." Yet, while disarmed for carnal warfare, we are fully equipped for the spiritual conflict.

Other appellatives describe the character of this Harbinger of Peace. The angel said "his name shall be Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins", hence the title Savior. At his baptism the Spirit came down and abode upon him, hence he is now Christ the anointed. Then, too, another title that endears him to our hearts is "Immanuel", which means "God with us". And so he said, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world", for his kingdom has no end. Praise God for his abiding presence, and for his peace, which passeth understanding and has no end. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men" this bright, glad Christmas morning. And let all the earth say, Amen! in honor to the Harbinger of Peace.

CHRISTMAS 1950 THE INCARNATION

Howard Surbey

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the father,) full

of grace and truth." John 1:14. John gives us a summary, in a few words, of a series of events that led to the completion of the great plan of salvation. He told us in the first verse "the Word was with God and the Word was God." We cannot realize the miraculous plan of God in sacrificing His son on our behalf.

The Incarnation implies the taking on of human flesh. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." II Cor. 5:21. "That we might," the way was opened and now we are able. The way is opened but it still depends upon us individually whether we accept God's plan or not.

Can we realize the great sacrifice that was made for sinful man? The Son of God putting on flesh and dwelling among us. Sorry to mention what followed, abuse, tongue-lashing, lack of faith and even those, who were benefited, denied Him. Dear reader this is still going on, by you? John assures us that this was actually true because he was one who beheld His glory and heard the Father say "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him."

We believed the purpose was to reveal God's will unto man and to pay the price that man might be brought back into the favor of God by accepting His blood as a sacrifice for man's sins. "Ye know that he was manifest to take away our sins." I John 3:5. This event was promised, actually, back in the Garden of Eden and renewed to many of the faithful prophets and fathers of Israel.

It was first publicly revealed to the lowly shepherds who were out in the still night watching their sheep. "Lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:9-12. Did the shepherds believe the Angel and appreciate what God had revealed unto them, yes, and they had the privilege to reveal this greatest of all events unto fallen

man. Dear reader, do you believe it? Appreciate it?

While Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth and Zacharias likely knew of this miraculous event, it was revealed publicly by the shepherds. It was so important that it is the center of time on earth. The old dispensation pointed forward to this event on numerous occasions and the new dispensation continually points back to it. Actually even the world at large figures time from this event.

The old dispensation usually refers to God as the powerful, fearful, Jehovah. The new dispensation reveals Him to us as Christ's Father, our merciful Heavenly Father. "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father." John 14:7-9.

Our text tells us of, this Word that was made flesh "full of grace and truth." I question how anyone can fail to accept Him as the Son of God, after reading of the many infallible miracles and events from His birth unto His death. How can anyone fail to believe that His words are overflowing with "grace and truth?"

Upon this Christmas season, with all the blessings of God surrounding us and the religious liberty spurring us on, to serve God and keep His commandments; may we look upon our Savior as John the Baptist did "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." The Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us, that, He might reveal God's will unto us and shed His precious blood for weak mortal creatures.

CHRISTMAS 1970

JESUS - SAVIOUR

Walter Bird

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21.

As Joseph was pondering upon the circumstances concerning Mary, his espoused wife, an angel appeared unto him to reassure

him and make known to him concerning the birth of a child to her. The angel also indicated His purpose in this life for His name was to be Jesus, meaning Saviour. He was to be the Saviour of His people to save them from their sins.

Ancient authorities do not agree on the date of Christ's birth. It isn't so important that we know the date of His birth, but rather that we know Him. History tells us that the early Christmas festival sank into its Christmas elements. We, too, need to keep in mind the meaning of the day and that our observance of it might honor Christ's birth.

In the account given in Matthew, the first thing the Wise Men did when they came to Bethlehem was to fall down and worship Jesus. This would suggest the importance of our recognition of Jesus as the Son of God and our Saviour. It would further suggest the importance of our worship of Him, for if we fail in this our gifts and gatherings will do little to bring us closer to God and into favor with Him.

The next thing we read concerning the Wise Men is that they opened their treasures and "...presented unto Him gifts; gold, frankincense and myrrh." We would remember that this was the first Christmas. God gave His only begotten Son in the form of a baby and soon after, the Wise Men brought gifts to Him. This would suggest that in giving gifts we should do so in the spirit of love and unselfishness which characterized the giving of God's gift. If ye love them which love you, what thank have ye?

In the account as given according to Luke, we also read there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God. Later, as the shepherds returned from visiting Mary, Joseph, and the Babe, we read that they glorified and praised God for all that they had heard and seen. We feel that the praise of both angels and shepherds included singing. And what joyful singing that must have been! Think at what a disadvantage we would be if we could not express our praises in song!

As the angels were praising God they said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14. We believe the peace which the angels spoke of was that

which comes through the Atonement of Christ for our sin. On another occasion Jesus said to His disciples, "Peace be unto you." The peace can only be ours as we have freedom from all the distresses experienced as the result of sin. The unhappy world knows but little of peace. In all of recorded history there have been but comparatively few years in which there was not a war in progress somewhere in the world.

Some have read the message thus, "...and on earth peace, toward men of good will." But this is not the message. Thanks be unto God that the message is still "...good will toward men," from Him. "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." 1 Tim. 2:4.

BECAUSE HE SO LOVED US, HE GAVE THE BEST

John 3:16

It was Christmas morning. Coralie rubbed the sleep from her eyes, remembering that this was the day to celebrate Christ's birth. God had given the best that He had, His only begotten Son, because He so loved the whole world! Her teacher had explained the true meaning of Christmas yesterday in class.

God SO loved the world that He gave us a gift, not just any gift, but the greatest gift of all, His beloved Son. He loved us. He cared for us. He included all of us—for whosoever will may come to Him and receive this gift of eternal life.

Coralie sat on the edge of her bed thinking. God gave His BEST. Somehow that troubled her for she had decided to keep the best of the gifts she had purchased for herself and give the poorer, cheaper ones to others.

Why shouldn't she keep what she liked best for herself? Hadn't she worked hard this summer at her baby-sitting job until she had the money to buy what she needed and wanted? Surely if she used her hard-earned money, she deserved the best, she reasoned as she hurried down the stairs to start her day.

Her Mother was bustling about the kitchen getting breakfast. "Good morning, Coralie. Why the frown?" she asked as she glanced

at her daughter's down cast face. "This is Christmas morning. One of the happiest days of the year!"

"Oh, somehow, I feel mean and selfish. It makes me unhappy," sighed Coralie.

"How can you feel unhappy on this day of happy surprises and the giving of gifts to others?"

After breakfast the family enjoyed opening their gifts and singing Christmas carols together. Each one had received at least one gift that they had on their wanted list.

Suddenly Mother exclaimed, "How could I have forgotten to ask cousin Mary over for dinner today? I was so busy planning my menu that I neglected to complete the guest list for our family dinner! I have no present for her either! Coralie, could you scare up a present of some kind for her while I run quickly to phone her?"

Coralie trudged up the stairs to her room. Cousin Mary was a bit odd—a good-hearted soul, really, but still a bit strange in her ways. What in the world would she enjoy as a gift? She had given away all her gifts except the one she wanted to keep herself. It was a picture of the Good Shepherd leading His sheep. The kind expression on His face as He looked down at the little lamb in His arms had touched her. It reminded her of His tender care for all His children. The attractive frame enhanced the picture, too. It would just fit the bare space on the wall above her bed. It was her best, most pricey gift and she loved it. How could she give it away?

As she stared down at the picture she held in her hands, she seemed to imagine that The Good Shepherd smiled an understanding smile at her and said, "In as much as you have given the best to others, you have given the best to me!"

She would learn to care and share the best with others, because she knew it would please Him!

Sister Maxine Surbey



Earth has no sorrows that Heaven can not heal.

“HE IS...”

He is the First and Last, the Beginning and the End!

He is the keeper of Creation and the Creator of all!

He is the Architect of the universe and

The Manager of all times.

He always was, He always is, and He always will be...

Unmoved, Unchanged, Undefeated, and never Undone!

He was bruised and brought healing!

He was pierced and eased pain!

He was persecuted and brought freedom!

He was dead and brought life!

He is risen and brings power!

He reigns and brings Peace!

The world can't understand Him,

The armies can't defeat Him,

The schools can't explain Him, and

The leaders can't ignore Him.

Herod couldn't kill Him,

The Pharisees couldn't confuse Him, and

The people couldn't hold Him!

Nero couldn't crush Him,

Hitler couldn't silence Him,

The New Age can't replace Him, and

Donahue can't explain Him away!

He is light, love, longevity, and Lord.

He is Goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, and God.

He is Holy, Righteous, Mighty, Powerful, and Pure.

His ways are right,

His word is eternal,

His will is unchanging, and

His mind is on me.

He is my Redeemer,

He is my Savior,
He is my guide, and
He is my peace!
He is my Joy,
He is my comfort,
He is my Lord, and
He rules my life!
I serve Him because His bond is love,
His burden is light, and
His goal for me is abundant life.
I follow Him because He is the wisdom of the wise,
The power of the powerful,
The ancient of days, the ruler of rulers,
The leader of leaders, the overseer of the overcomers, and
The sovereign Lord of all that was and is and is to come.
And if that seems impressive to you, try this for size.
His goal is a relationship with ME!
He will never leave me,
Never forsake me,
Never mislead me,
Never forget me,
Never overlook me, and
Never cancel my appointment in His appointment book!
When I fall, He lifts me up!
When I fail, He forgives!
When I am weak, He is strong!
When I am lost, He is the way!
When I am afraid, He is my courage!
When I stumble, He steadies me!
When I am hurt, He heals me!
When I am broken, He mends me!
When I am blind, He leads me!
When I am hungry, He feeds me!

When I face trials, He is with me!
When I face persecution, He shields me!
When I face problems, He comforts me!
When I face loss, He provides for me!
When I face Death, He carries me Home!
He is everything for everybody, everywhere,
Every time, and every way.
He is God, He is faithful.
I am His, and He is mine!
My Father in heaven can whip the father of this world.
So, if you're wondering why I feel so secure, understand
this...
He said it and that settles it.
God is in control, I am on His side, and
That means all is well with my soul.
Everyday is a blessing for GOD Is!

Selected by Sister Susan Manuel

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR

Acts 7:37-60

Stephen continued his message to the scribes and Pharisees, which were gathered together in judgment of him. He basically went from Abraham to Moses to David to Solomon to Jesus.

Stephen pointed out how "The Prophet" (speaking about Jesus) was present in the wilderness at Mount Sinai when the Ten Commandments were given to Moses. But the Jews rejected "The Prophet," and would not obey the Ten Commandments.

Stephen then goes on to tell of more instances of the rejection of God's way by the children of Israel. He mentioned the golden calf, and the worship of the host of heaven (false gods, including worship of the stars, and so forth). The children of Israel had even worshipped Moloch and Remphan, who were false gods of the Cananites whom God had driven out of the Land of Canaan.

The Jews had the witness of the tabernacle, and then the Temple which Solomon built. Stephen noted that God dwells in temples “not made with hands.” Actually, God has chosen to dwell in the bodies of His Believers!

It seems, as Stephen was preaching, all of the sudden His Spirit welled up within him, and he suddenly broke into some very inflammatory words (considering the audience to whom he was speaking)!

In my own words, Stephen exclaimed, “You bunch of stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you continue to always resist the Holy Ghost, just like your wicked fathers! Which of the prophets have your fathers not slain? Name them! They killed the prophets who have foretold the coming of the Just One, and now you have betrayed and murdered Him! You have received the Law by a miracle of God, and you have not kept it!”

This cut to the very core of the Jewish rulers’ hearts. They were very proud of their ancestors, and they were very proud of the way they felt they were keeping the Law. These words absolutely cut to the very core of their being. So they gnashed on Stephen with their teeth. Did you ever see anyone so angry that they did that?

Then Stephen suddenly saw a Heavenly vision — or else the Heaven’s opened up to him in anticipation of his arrival. He saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he reported on what he was seeing! This was too much for the Pharisees. They did not believe that Jesus was in Heaven at all — they thought he was just another human being. They became so angry that they grabbed Stephen and dragged him out of the city, and stoned him until he died.

Note carefully the reaction of Stephen during his stoning. First, he called upon God. He knew he was going to die. “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” He went out with a word of forgiveness on his lips! What an example for us!

Summary Thought . . . Aspire to be like Stephen. Know the Word. Know the Scriptures! But with all that knowledge, keep your eyes upon Jesus, and be humble about it — always ready to

forgive — even when forgiveness is not asked for.

Respectfully Submitted
Brother Robert S. Lehigh

MATTHEW HENRY SPEAKS OUT ON BIBLICAL MEDITATION

Psalm 1:2, “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.”

To meditate in God’s word is to discourse with ourselves concerning the great things contained in it, with a close application of mind, a fixedness of thought, till we be suitably affected with those things and experience the savour and power of them in our hearts. This we must do day and night; we must have a constant habitual regard to the word of God as the rule of our actions and the spring of our comforts, and we must have it in our thoughts, accordingly, upon every occasion that occurs, whether night or day. No time is amiss for meditating on the word of God, nor is any time unseasonable for those visits. We must not only set ourselves to meditate on God’s word morning and evening, at the entrance of the day and of the night, but these thoughts should be interwoven with the business and converse of every day and with the repose and slumbers of every night.

From Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible
Selected by Brother Dean Shaffer

HEAVEN

Please read Luke 16:19-31. After you have read this account of two men as told by our Lord Jesus, think about how wonderful it will be to be carried by angels into Abraham’s bosom. Then think what it will be like to be WITH HIM in paradise. Luke 23:43.

We sing “How Beautiful Heaven Must Be”, but do we ever meditate on “the wonders we there shall behold.” Revelation 21 and 22 gives a limited picture of “That Blissful Place.” But when we get there, I am confident that we will be amazed at the glory of that

place.

Moreover the Lord told the thief, "Thou shalt be WITH ME." What a day that will be when we see him face to face.

Lazarus was comforted. All the sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. See Romans 8:18.

O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies,
O they tell me of a home far away;
O they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise,
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone,
O they tell me of that land far away;
Where the tree of life in eternal bloom
Sheds its fragrance thro' the unclouded day.

O they tell me of the King in His beauty there,
And they tell me that mine eyes shall behold,
Where He sits on the throne that is whiter than snow,
In the city that is made of gold.

O they tell me that He smiles on His children there,
And His smile drives their sorrows all away;
And they tell me that no tears ever come again,
In that lovely land of unclouded day.

O the land of cloudless day,
O the land of an unclouded sky;
O they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise,
O they tell me of an unclouded day.

Now consider the rich man, who was clothed in fine garments, and fared sumptuously every day. Would any of you say you are not rich, or that you do not fare sumptuously or that you are not

clothed well. I know some of you may say you dress very plainly, I commend you for your plain dress, but please do not put your hope of Heaven in your plain dress.

Well, the rich man died and was buried, and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment. We are not told that he was a bad man, or cruel, but he was uncaring. See Matthew 25:31-46.

Hell is a real place, prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). A place of everlasting fire. A place of torments (Luke 16:23). The fire is not quenched (Mark 9:43-48). A place of outer darkness, weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:42-50).

Now ask yourself, is there anything on earth more precious than a place WITH HIM in paradise, or anything worth going to hell for?

The things of this world perish, but both Heaven and Hell are eternal.

Our prayer is that we may all gain Heaven, through our belief in Christ, and all avoid hell through redemption by His blood.

God bless you all,
Brother William Carpenter

KENYA KNOTES

We send greetings in Jesus' name. It seems that I just finished writing the last article and here it is time to write another one. You can tell that we are kept very active in all the work that is involved here.

As we continue with what God was doing in our lives. After the phone quit ringing so much we were able to focus on completing jobs. I was also called on to help with some Church work in the District so we spent some time doing this also. The boys and I spent a little time doing some archery hunting. Everything seemed to be going smoothly. I was privileged to attend the Mission board meeting and the Leadership Conference in Dallas Center. Chad, Derrick and a friend drove out also. Our family was approved to

serve on the Kenya mission field. We began to make plans for Kenya, looking for someone to rent our house, keeping things moving on mother's estate, completing the list of jobs to be completed, trying to sort through our emotions about Kenya.

Towards the end of November, Cindy informed me that she was pregnant again. Now what do we do? We called friends and family and discussed this, we cried and prayed, Lord what are you doing? We made contact with some Missionaries who were in Kenya and had just had a child in Kenya. They said that they had no problems and gave us encouragement. We decided to continue with our plans. We looked forward to spending time with our families at Christmas, which we enjoyed very much. The end of December Cindy had a miscarriage. God proved again that He was in control of everything and that we could rest in the palm of His hands and feel His love. Will continue next time.

The work here in Kenya continues to move on with plans for the annual meeting. The members of the church are becoming excited about the meetings and are giving themselves to the work that needs to be done. I have to commend them for the way they are willing to give sacrificially towards this meeting. I continue to have leadership training with the Brethren, and continue the classes for baptism.

We were blessed to have friends from Washington, D.C. visit us from November 8 through 14. It was a great encouragement to our family. We spent time with them relaxing and having fun not involved with a lot of outside activity. They were here with a work and witnessing team to help with the Africa Nazarene University, the Church with which they are affiliated. They could not believe the difference in the climate and the beauty of the country. It was so clear and awesome, as we were able to climb a lookout on top of the mountain and see for miles as we watched the sunrise one morning.

As we sat there and watched the morning begin a few thoughts were going through my mind. We were on the mountain top. It took a lot of effort to climb to the top but when we got to the top the view was awesome, but it made me think of life. So often we seem to be in the valleys of life, and we may be in the shadow of the

mountain. It seems that we can hardly see the sun, and sometimes we are ready to give up but if we continue on to the top we feel so victorious. We need to continue to look to the Son to help us to climb to the top. When we are on the mountaintop there are valleys all around us and we need to go through them. We should not become discouraged about the valleys but look at the next mountaintop that will be next and focus our sight on it.

My mind was also drawn to the fact that we are on the top, but there were many in the valley or part way up. It is our responsibility to encourage them to continue to reach the top. The effort it takes is worth the beauty they will see. Sometimes when we are on the top of the mountain we do not feel like going back to the valley, but I believe that when we are in the valley this is where we can have the most impact on the lives around us. People should see the results of our mountain top experience when we are in the valley with them and this should draw them to the top with us. Like Moses' encounter when he was able to see the back part of God. When he went back to the children of Israel, Moses did not know how much the experience on top had on him. Do we reflect the light of Jesus Christ from our experiences with Him on top of the mountain, or do we get to discouraged about the valley that we forget the mountaintop?

I want to encourage each one to continue to the top of the mountains in our life because someday there will be no more valleys that we will have to pass through but we will be able to enter the portals of Glory. What an experience that will be. I am looking forward to that day with much anticipation. Are you? May the Lord of heaven keep you.

In His Service,
Brother Merle Sweitzer

WORK, FOR THE NIGHT IS COMING

John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that send me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

Our Lord, while upon this earth, only had a limited time to ac-

comply all that was planned for Him to do. By our calendar, He only lived an earthly life of thirty-three years, yet He knew what His end would be. We also have a brief span of time to do the Lord's work here. We do not know how long we have, nor what our end will be, yet we must embrace this fact by faith and seek God's will daily in order to satisfy these goals.

If we receive Christ as our Saviour and Lord and seek to do His will, then God will give us useful work to do for His Kingdom. Some will be elected to an office in the church, while others will find work among the sick, or the poor, or in the foreign field. Yet in today's world it seems that with most folks God's work has lost its urgency. Have you ever had a job that had to be done by night fall and it was getting darker and darker but you had more to do and things were going wrong and there was no progress, yet you struggled on and finally reached the goal? Souls are dying right and left, yet we do not see the urgency of spreading the gospel, of telling others, of showing others. When Jesus was before Pilate He told him that He was born to bear witness to the truth. Pilate then asked Jesus, "What is truth?" (John 18:37) Yet Pilate never allowed Jesus to give the answer to that most important question. Do we know the answer? Can we tell others?

Many are curious. There are a lot of "plain people" in our area, and there are many, both tourists and local folks, who learn enough about them to conclude that they are merely those of "different culture." If WE are going to live a "peculiar" life in this world, we must let them know that there is more to it than a difference in culture. We must show the world that our lives are rooted in the Word of God and that we look for that upper and better kingdom, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Do we see that the fields are ripe with harvest? Do we see the sun slowly but surely sinking in the West? Do we have loved ones outside the fold of God? What about our neighbors? Does anyone love them enough to speak to them about Jesus? If you are too scared to approach them, then pray for them. Spend much time in prayer for them. They will notice a difference if you are earnest.

Some of us have much work yet to do. Others are reaching the sundown of their lives, when man's work is done. Yet our brother's blood cries out to us. Work for the night is coming. There is still much work left to do.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

OUR SECOND JOB

Very few of us sojourn through this life on earth without at least having jobs to support ourselves, but a second job is usually optional. The first is paid with earthly medium of exchange. I look at the second as a reward that is out of this world. Read Luke 10:25-28, Romans 10:9 and Matthew 25:35-40 as a way to obtain it.

How do we comply with the great commandment? I believe it's caring for the least of these my brethren. Jesus says and the second is like unto it, treat others as we would like to be treated. On this hangs all the law. Maybe we all can not be evangelists or missionaries but we can all help with our offerings as God has given us talent to earn our medium of exchange. I am sure we can find some ones in this world that are less fortunate than us. I read regularly of the plight of our fellow man. If we can not help directly, I think we can find someone who can. This comes in the category of being a good steward of what God has given us. It is hard to understand why so many bad things happen to some of the best and deserving people we know. As far as the heaven is from the earth, so are his ways higher than our ways. Do we pray as he tells us in Matthew, chapter 6?

I have been deceived by some who make long audible prayers in public. Because they sound good to our ears we like to think they sound good to God's ears, too. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. Be not deceived, God is not mocked. As a man soweth that shall he also reap. I have had some losses by some false statements of those I thought were Christian. I am a poor judge of who is Christian. I still believe a Christian falsehood is justified as in the case of Abraham and David when done so to save their

lives.

We can receive the kingdom of God as a little child (Mark 10:15) for which I am thankful as I am not an intellectual or even a learned man compared to those who study a long time before they become ministers. It's hard to understand why so many of those who do so do not agree with each other. But He has given us a mind to think with. Use it!

Brother Walter C. Myers

OUR MORAL CLIMATE DOES NOT ENCOURAGE FAITH

A. W. Tozer

"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved." Matthew 10:22.

THERE IS A PLAIN AND EVIDENT FACT in genuine Christianity that is often overlooked by eager evangelists bent on getting results: that to accept Christ it is necessary that we reject whatever is contrary to Him!

Let us not be shocked by the suggestion that there are disadvantages to the life in Christ. Everyone who has lived for Christ in a Christless world has suffered some losses and endured some pains that he could have avoided by the simple expedient of laying down his cross.

The contemporary moral climate does not favor a faith as tough and fibrous as that taught by our Lord and His apostles. The delicate, brittle saints being produced in our religious hothouses today are hardly to be compared with the committed, expendable believers who once gave their witness among men. And the fault lies with our leaders. They are too timid to tell the people all the truth. They are now asking men to give to God that which costs them nothing!

When will Christians learn that to love righteousness it is necessary to hate sin! that to accept Christ it is necessary to reject self? that to follow the good way we must flee from evil? that a

friend of the world is an enemy of God? that God allows no twilight zone between two altogether where the fearful and the doubting may take refuge at once from hell to come and the rigors of present discipline?

Selected by Sister Terry Scofield

2000 GENERAL CONFERENCE QUERY

2000 General Conference approved query #4 which asked for the appointment of a committee to study the following proposed statements. That query asks that each congregation of the Brotherhood submit its favored version of the statements to the committee. Each congregation is asked to submit their statement as soon as possible to Bro. Milton Cook, 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

We, the Shrewsbury Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church, humbly request General Conference, through the District Meeting of the First District, to consider the following three suggestions for revising the Dunkard Brethren Church Polity by relegating them to a specially named committee for the period of one year, during which time the congregations of the Brotherhood shall review them and forward their favored version of the wording to the committee. The committee shall then return to General Conference of 2001 with a proposed revision of the statements. Some suggested revisions are as follows:

Statement 1: We, the Shrewsbury congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church, humbly petition General Conference through the District Meeting of the First District to change the wording in the Dunkard Brethren Church Polity, Article V - Church Rites, section 5, (page 5 in the 1993 edition) from:

“Veiling or covering their heads by Christian women in times of prayer or prophesying is of Divine appointment. A plain white cap covering the heads meets the scriptural requirement (I Corinthians 11:1-16). It is not consistent nor in harmony with the teachings of our forefathers for sisters to wear prayer coverings without strings. The modern round cap is not considered as meeting the scriptural

requirement for a covering.”

to:

“The head covering worn over the uncut hair of Christian women is of Divine appointment (I Corinthians 11:1-16). The veiling (sometimes referred to as the prayer covering) symbolizes the woman’s acceptance of God’s order of headship, purity in Christian living, and a fervent prayer life. A plain white cap covering the head meets the scriptural requirement. The modern round cap is not considered as meeting the scriptural requirement for a covering.”

and that this change be included in any future editions of the Church Polity Booklet.

Statement 2: We, the Shrewsbury congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church, humbly petition General Conference through District Meeting of the First District, to change the wording in the Dunkard Brethren Church Polity, Article VII - Nonconformity, under the section entitled “Dress and adornment,” paragraph 3 (page 12 in the 1993 edition) from:

That the veil be worn in time of prayer and prophesying (I Corinthians 11:1-16). The plain white cap is regarded as meeting the requirements of scriptural teaching on the subject.”

to:

“That the head veiling for Christian women be worn over uncut hair both at home and in public (I Corinthians 11:1-16). In order to be consistent with the scriptures we encourage our sisters that this can be an expression of their love and obedience to our Lord and Saviour. When choosing the size of your covering, remember Christ’s words in Mark 8:38, “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him (or her) also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” We ask that our sisters wear the plain white cap, which is regarded as meeting the requirements of scriptural teaching on the subject. (Consideration for other styles and/or colors may be given for those from other than Anglo-Saxon cultures, always keeping the Biblical intent in mind.)”

and that this change be included in any future editions of the Church Polity Booklet.

Statement 3: We, the Pleasant Home congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church, prayerfully petition General Conference through District Meeting of the Fourth District, to change Article V, Section 5, in the polity book to read as follows: "Veiling or covering their heads by Christian women in times of prayer or prophesying, and in recognition of Christian headship, is of Divine appointment. A plain white cap covering the head meets the scriptural requirement (I Corinthians 11:1-16).

The committee named was Elder Robert Lehigh, Elder Harley Flory, Elder Tom St. John, Elder James Meyers and Elder Milton Cook.

NEWS ITEMS

2001 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2000 General Conference decided that a Leadership Conference should be held annually. The 2001 Leadership Conference will be held, the Lord willing, January 19-21, 2001 at the West Fulton, Ohio congregation, near Wauseon, Ohio. All Dunkard Brethren Elders, Ministers and Deacons are invited to attend. There will be special activities for the Sisters during this time. There will be special preaching services Friday and Saturday evenings. For further information contact Bro. Dennis St. John.

THANK YOU

Dear Fellow-like Believers,

I want to express my gratitude and thanks for all the cards, letters and prayers for me during my four surgeries the last three months.

We can come "unglued" pretty fast, you know. I feel like I am back to about normal now. It was a reminder that the sunset of life is approaching fast and we should be ready to leave. Yesterday is gone, tomorrow may never be mine, only what is done for the Lord will last. May He continue to bless. My thanks to Him.

Brother Walter C. Myers

February Issue of Bible Monitor

As the time nears to assemble the material for the February issue of the Bible Monitor, The Presiding Elder of each congregation should inform the Editor of any changes needing to be made in the standing information. Please inform the Editor by January 15, 2001, so the February issue will be accurate. Thank you.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 2001

January 7 - Wisdom Psalms - Psalm 1, Psalm 37:1-15.

1. Why are the ungodly compared to chaff?
2. Why should we not be "envious against the workers of iniquity"?

January 14 - Wisdom Psalm - Psalm 37:16-40.

1. How are the steps of a good man ordered by the Lord?
2. Who should be our strength in the time of trouble?

January 21 - Wisdom Psalm - Psalm 119:1-48.

1. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way"?
2. What do we need to hide in our hearts so we do not sin against God?

January 28 - Wisdom Psalm - Psalm 119:49-88.

1. Why did the Psalmist say "It is good for me that I have been afflicted"?
2. Explain the Psalmist's plea, "Quicken me after thy lovingkindness".

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 2001

January 7 - Our Birthright - Gen. 25:27-34, John 7:38-39, 8:27-28,
Heb. 11:24-26, 12:16-17.

1. What is our birthright?
2. How did Esau despise his birthright?

January 14 - The New Birth - Ezek. 36:26-28, John 1:13, 3:3-8,
Rom. 6:4-6, II Cor. 5:17, I Peter 1:23-25.

1. What is "the new birth"?
2. How is death a part of the new birth?

January 21 - Baptism of Christ - Matt. 3:13-17, Luke 3:21-23, John
1:29-38.

1. For what purpose was Jesus baptized?
2. What does the voice from Heaven, and the Holy Spirit descending in a bodily shape like a dove, mean to you?

January 28 - Christian Perfection - Gen. 17:1-2, Matt. 5:48, 19:21-30, II Cor. 13:11, James 1:4, 2:21-24, 3:2, Heb. 6:11.

1. How is it possible to be in the flesh and yet perfect before God?
2. When we are not perfect before God, what must we do?



Some church members live a cat and dog life, they purr at the prayer meeting and growl at home.

Suppose the Lord made people as sick on Monday as they claim to be on Sunday.

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